

**WARREN
MAGAZINE**

**VAMPIRE
#42**

60p

FIVE MACABRELY ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS OF HORROR!

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VAMPIRELLA

**VAMPIRELLA
IS SHOT!
WOUNDED
AND NEAR
DEATH.
FROM THE
BULLET
OF A
MYSTERIOUS
SNIPER-
ASSASSIN!**

**ALSO:
ADAM
AND
CONRAD
VAN HELSING
RETURN!
AND ONE
MUST DIE!
THE VICTIM
OF A
LURKING
KILLER!**





THINK OF THIS BOOK
AS A ROCKETSHIP TO
TERROR. I'M YOUR
PILOT... **VAMPIRELLA**.
I WANT YOU TO
MEET MY **CREW**.

A MAN WHO SEES
MARTIANS CAN BE A
VALUABLE **ASSET**.
A SEVEN-FOOT TALL
WEREBUNNY
DEFINATELY IS **NOT**

BUT DON'T WORRY
THE **LAST SOLDIER**
WILL SLAY HIM. IF
THE **WOLVES OF WAR**
DON'T GET TO HIM
FIRST!

TWO MINUTES INSIDE
NEW YORK AND POOR
PENDY AND **I** ARE
CHARGED WITH MURDER.
ME? A **MURDERESS?**
CONRAD AND **ADAM**
VAN HELSING RETURN.



OUR COVER
VAMPIRELLA shot? Murdered? Impossible! But the beautiful cover painting by Ribas seems to say it's true. For excitement and suspense read this issue's VAMPIRELLA.

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VAMPIRELLA

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42 CULT OF THE DEAD Did you ever want to be a Superman? To be smarter, quicker, stronger than everybody? A Chicago professor thought he had found the answer. Like the fish his mom had urged him to eat when he was small, it was real brain food!

50 ANGUS CROW'S TESTAMENT Angus Crow saw Martians. And he heard 'em. When he mentioned it, most people thought he was mad. The Martians agreed. Angus was indeed crazy! The solution was to lock him up where he could do no harm. Permanently!

CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ivins, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.



"Goodbye, My Love" was an intriguing satire!"

Flaxman Loew's stories may be becoming less and less impressive of late, but he certainly deserves congratulations for "The Malignant Morticians" in *VAMPIRELLA* #41. Loew turned in a gripping tale without recourse to werewolves, demons, or other overused grotesqueries.

The concluding *Dracula* tale by Gerry Boudreau was the best in the series' three issue run. It masterfully portrayed prejudice, love and pathos, not only in *Dracula*'s plight, but in that of the supporting characters, also. It was a brilliant story.

Aside from the *VAMPIRELLA* and *Dracula* tales, however, the issue was a disappointment. "House on the Sea" went nowhere. "Wickford Witches" was unimaginative and predictable. And, though "Goodbye, My Love" was a good character study, the twist ending was contrived and unbelievable.

ED O'REILLY
Ada, Ohio

VAMPIRELLA #41 was one of your best issues ever, partially because of Fernando Fernandez' "Goodbye, My Love." It was one of the most touching stories I have ever seen. The delicate artwork was awesomely suited to the subject. For days after I read it, it haunted me. It was a truly engrossing story.

THOMAS BRIDSON
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Several recent letters columns have carried comments by readers who want *Pantha* retired from *VAMPIRELLA*. I don't agree. I like *Pantha* quite a lot and want her to remain. I particularly like the sequences where she changes from woman to cat.

How about a *Pantha* or *VAMPIRELLA* in color, if and when you resume the color. Maybe in the summer special issue, huh?

J.W. JOHNSON
Salt Lake City, Utah

As has been our practice in the past, J.W. *VAMPI*'s once-yearly color story will be featured in her summer annual. All summer long you can look forward to lots of color in all the Warren magazines.

VAMPIRELLA #41 was the first issue in about two years in which *VAMPI* herself was not up to par. "The Malignant Morticians" was bad news... both in the script and art department. Flaxman Loew has written some terrific tales, and I thought his final *VAMPI* saga would surely be one of them. But the whole thing was too campy-chic to be considered a good horror story.

Leopold Sanchez is normally a fair-to-middling artist. This story, however, looked like he completed it in one night. It was *VAMPIRELLA*'s poorest art to date. Please bring back Jose Gonzalez as the strip's permanent artist. I personally think the Bill DuBay-Gonzalez team would make *VAMPIRELLA* come alive like never before. And at this point in her career, she needs it.

It was impossible to paint an exciting cover from this month's *VAMPI* story, so you came up with one that had nothing to do with it. I don't mind. It was nice to see our girl back on the cover again. Perhaps I am a minority, but I believe that she should appear on the cover every issue.

The *Dracula* tale, "Rainy Night in Georgia," was handled extremely well. Annie Lee Baker was a fascinating character. Her relationship with Garuda, the bird man, was quite touching. And of course, the Esteban Maroto art was splendid.

"The House on the Sea" was quite possibly the best story in the book this month, and it marks the first time I have ever really enjoyed Aureleon's art. devoid of scratchy white lines, it was very smooth, very nice. I don't want to see the aforementioned style returned to *Pantha*... in fact, I don't want to see *Pantha* at all. She's ridiculous.

I don't know if I should be offended by "Goodbye, My Love, Goodbye," or if I should love it. Fernando Fernandez either made a brilliant, vicious comment on the atheist, sexist society we live in, or he is enforcing those ideals. At any rate, it was food for thought.

BOB RODI
Oak Brook, Ill.

Now that Flaxman Loew is leaving the *VAMPIRELLA* series, I would like to be the first to thank him for many entertaining and exciting stories.

I sincerely hope we will be seeing his work elsewhere in the Warren magazines.

ALAN NORMARK
Dalton, Penn.

After a series of mediocre offerings, the forty-first issue of *VAMPIRELLA* heralded an upswing. And judging from the answers printed to some of the letters in the issue's "Scarlet Letters," the best is yet to come.

You realize, of course, that giving us these tidbits of information is like waving a bottle of blood under *VAMPI*'s pretty nose. To say that it whets the appetite would be an understatement. But please don't stop it now! The cover this month is one of Enrich's best. *VAMPI*'s look of stark terror was enough to make me uneasy. But then he has made frightened females his specialty. The cover might have been more effective, however, if held back until a better companion story than "The Malignant Morticians" could be written.

The stories in this issue, aside from the *VAMPIRELLA* episode, were better done than those in recent issues. "The House on the Sea" was most welcome. I hope it is an indication that we'll be seeing more stories of greater length.

"Goodbye, My Love, Goodbye" showed Fernando Fernandez on the right track again after a couple of bombs.

The Wickford Witches was marred only by the trite ending. Otherwise, it was the best story in the magazine.

"Rainy Night in Georgia" was typical of the new *Dracula* series. Okay, but not spectacular. We never know what Cassandra chooses to tell us. Also, the theme of this episode received better treatment in Bill DuBay's "Freedom's Just Another Word" in *CREEPY* #53.

I miss the color section. I hope rising costs haven't forced you to drop the color entirely! Still, that would be preferable to a raise in price.

Regarding "The Malignant Morticians," Leopold Sanchez still isn't my idea of a substitute for Jose Gonzalez, on the *VAMPI* series. Although he seems to have taken more care drawing our girl than he did formerly, she still does not have the beauty once bestowed upon her by Gonzalez.

I'm afraid, too, that "The Malignant Morticians" was the worst of the Flaxman Loew scripts... which is pretty bad. That DuBay is taking over the *VAMPIRELLA* saga is the best news for Warren since Esteban Maroto threw away his F.O.O.M. button. From this point on, our heroine will be returning to the status she once enjoyed.

BRIAN CAQEN
Cincinnati, Ohio



"Goodbye, My Love, Goodbye" and "The House on the Sea" tied for top honors in *VAMPIRELLA* #41. Though readers had varying concepts of the theme and message of each, they all agreed that the art and stories were stunning!

"House on the Sea" was unique!"

I was walking around in a state of boredom in an off-the-beaten-path drug store, looking for some typewriter ribbon, when I came across an elaborate magazine rack. Always one to be perked up by an interesting and entertaining magazine, I started to check out the new selections. Finally I picked up **VAMPIRELLA** #41.

I had heard of the magazine before. I have even caught a glimpse of it from time to time. But I had never actually bought a copy. So, after a few moments of debate over the price, I headed for the cashier, issue in hand.

When I got around to reading it, one of the first things that caught my eye was a block in the lower right hand corner of page five, suggesting "Why not write a vampire today?" Me? Write a vampire? But I thought, why not?

I eagerly absorbed every word... every line of art in the book, until, upon reaching the last page I was in quite a state. Now I'm trying to decide... considering the current economic crisis, my unavailability for unemployment compensation and the dishing out of my savings for everlong courses at both college and technical school... how am I going to get enough money together for a subscription. But it's a problem I'll overcome even if I have to sell apples on a street corner.

Thank you for sharing your tales with me. I am sorry that it was only after forty issues that I found you.

DAVID ROY BAXTER
Lancaster, Penn.

Thank YOU for finding us, David!

Now that **VAMPIRELLA** is getting a new writer, how about some new plots. **VAMPI** is a very beautiful woman. Why not have her battle other beauties... powerful female demons of chaos... witches or beast women like herself? Maybe she could even meet **Pantha** in battle, only to become friends later.

I like **Pantha** a lot and hope her series will become a regular feature in **VAMPIRELLA**.

I guess I just like beautiful female heroines. I'd like to see more and more of them.

WILSON RIVERA
Brooklyn, N.Y.

You've got them, Wilson. A **VAMPI**-**Pantha** teamup is being written even now. And **Pantha** is only one of a whole new batch of female foes for our girl from **Drakulon**.

VAMPIRELLA #41 was simply a masterpiece!

The cover by Enrich was chilling. And the inside cover by Jose Gonzalez was a stunner!

"The Malignant Morticians" was an average **Flaxman** Loew story with a simple but good plot. But like most of Loew's stories it lacked feeling or meaning. And as always, it was just too predictable.

I am looking forward to the start of **Bill DuBay's VAMPIRELLA** scripts. I hope he will be able to rescue **VAMPI** from **Loew's** stagnant mire of stale stories. If **DuBay** turns out stories similar to "What Price Love," his first **VAMPIRELLA** tale, way back in issue #25, the series will definitely be great again!

The three-episode **Dracula** series has really been a fine, fine treat. And "Rainy Night in Georgia" was no exception. It was well-written, exciting and packed with ethical commentary. It made good points about prejudice and judgement. **Esteban Maroto's** art is always special, and it has made the series all the more enjoyable.

The idea of rotating **Dracula**, **Pantha** and **Fleur** is a good one. I enjoy all three mini-series, and am looking forward to following each. **Pantha**, particularly, has been absent from your pages far too long.

"House on the Sea" was an excellent story. A classic. It held my interest and got more mysterious as the story progressed. The ending was nothing short of brilliant! It was an interesting concept of life after death and reincarnation. Author **Jim Stenstrum** is a genius. And **Auraleon's** art lived up to the story. What more can I say?

"The Wickford Witches" was a fine, mysterious whodunit, spiked with romance and the supernatural. It was awfully short... but it was awfully good, too.

"Goodbye, My Love, Goodbye" was another fine piece of workmanship. It was beautiful and deeply moving. The narrative and descriptions were brilliant. The ending was so powerful and had such impact that I just sat there after I had read the story, staring off into space. It was unbelievably sad. What a story! **Fernando Fernandez** is definitely your best artist-writer. He deserves a **Warren Award** in 1975.

RUSSELL KALTSCHMIDT
Long Island, N.Y.



The great **Pantha** controversy rages on. Several readers have written calling for an end to the **Pantha** series. Now **Pantha's** fans have jumped to her defense. The strip may make some new converts. **Budd Lewis** newscripts are great!

VAMPIRELLA #41 was a work of art, from **Enrich's** cover to **Fernando Fernandez' "Goodbye, My Love, Goodbye."** I loved it.

"I'm even getting used to the **Leopold Sanchez** art on the **VAMPIRELLA** strip, though I'd rather see **Jose Gonzalez**. His inside front cover was a masterpiece.

The **Dracula** story, "Rainy Night in Georgia" was alone worth the dollar price of the magazine. **Esteban Maroto's** art gets better with each passing issue. The last two panels were simply overwhelming, as was the whole story.

TERRY DOUGLAS
Madison, Tenn.

"The House on the Sea" was my favorite story in **VAMPIRELLA** #41. It's been awhile since **Warren** has published a story as lengthy as this. The eighteen pages allotted allowed for greater depth of plot and character development. And it demanded that both the artist and writer give us their best to keep us interested for so many pages. **Jim Stenstrum** and **Auraleon** did just that. I'd like to thank them for a masterpiece.

Please give us more long stories like this. And soon.

JON PEAKE
Huntington, W. Va.

UNCLE CREEPY & COUSIN EERIE GET MORE MAIL THAN VAMPIRELLA!

It's true. **VAMPI** may be prettier than **Uncle Creepy** or **Cousin Eerie**, but she doesn't get as much mail! She feels unloved! Why not write a vampire today? Send a letter to: **VAMPI'S SCARLET LETTERS**
c/o **Warren Publishing Co.**
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016



IN JULY, 1969, THREE MEN AND A TELEVISION CAMERA WERE LAUNCHED INTO SPACE. AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD WATCHED AS MAN LANDED ON THE MOON, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY.

IN AUGUST, 1969, ONE SHORT MONTH AFTER THAT HISTORIC MOONWALK, THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHED ANOTHER ROCKET INTO SPACE. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THERE WERE NO TELEVISION CAMERAS, NO CHEERING CROWDS. THE LAUNCH WAS KEPT SECRET FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. FROM THE WORLD.

THE SHIP'S DESTINATION: A PLANET IN THE STAR SYSTEM DRACOWIS. A PLANET, SCIENTISTS CLAIMED, CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING HUMAN LIFE. A PLANET CALLED DRAKULON.

THAT SHIP AND ITS CREW NEVER RETURNED TO EARTH...OR SO NASA BELIEVES. BUT NASA IS WRONG. THE SHIP SITS, WRECKED AND RUSTING, SOMEWHERE IN THE DENSE WOODS OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES. FIVE SHORT YEARS AGO IT LANDED... CARRYING EARTH'S FIRST VISITOR FROM AN ALIEN PLANET. THE GIRL CALLED...

VAMPIRELLA



6
STORY: BILL DuBAY / ART: JOSE GONZALEZ

FOR FIVE YEARS, **VAMPIRELLA** HAS TRIED TO ADAPT TO THIS STRANGE NEW WORLD. SHE HAS TRIED TO BECOME LIKE THE INHABITANTS OF THIS GREEN AND BLUE ORB.

WE'RE **HOMEPENDY**. AT LONG LAST, WE'RE BACK IN WONDERFUL DIRTY OLD NEW YORK CITY!

AS GOOD AN EXCUSE FOR A **TOAST** AS I'VE EVER HEARD!

BUT IT IS **IMPOSSIBLE** FOR ON **VAMPIRELLA'S** WORLD, **DRAKULON**, MEN SURVIVED BY DRINKING **BLOOD**. DEEP RUBY RED RIVERS OF **BLOOD** ONCE CRISS-CROSSED HER PLANET, BRINGING **LIFE** AND SUBSISTENCE TO THE POPULATION.

JUST THINK... NO MORE HEADHUNTERS, SUN GODS OR NAMELESS RAVISHERS...!

WE'RE BACK IN THE LAND OF **REAL PEOPLE!**

YEAH! PUMPS, MUGGERS AND STREET CORNER ORATORS!

FAR FROM ALLOWING HER TO ADAPT TO HER NEW WORLD, **VAMPIRELLA'S** NEED FOR **BLOOD** HAS CONDEMNED HER AS AN **OUTCAST**.

AND I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO MEET OUR FIRST **NATIVES!**

IT HAS **LABELED** HER A **KILLER**.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, **POPS!** PUT THE HANDS WHERE I CAN **SEE 'EM**... AND LEAN AGAINST THAT **WALL!**

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

BETTER DO AS THE NICE MAN ASKS, **VAMPI!** I THINK WE'RE BEING **BUSTED**, AS THE TERM GOES!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

TEMPER, VAMPI! THE MAN'S GOT A BADGE AND A GUN!

IN NEW YORK, IT ISN'T **KOSHER** TO ARGUE WITH EITHER!

HE'LL SOON FIND OUT HE'S APPREHENDED THE **WRONG PARTY**... AND THEN HE'LL **APOLOGIZE!**

THERE'S NO MISTAKE, OLD MAN! YOU AND PUN'KIN HERE ARE WHO WE WANT...

...FOR **MURDER!**

LIKE **HELL** YOU DON'T, DOLL!

SAREAD THOSE LEGS...! CHICK LIKE YOU SHOULD BE USED TO THAT BY NOW!

OUTRAGED, HUMILIATED, STUNNED, THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL FROM THE STARS AND HER AGED COMPANION ARE QUICKLY USHERED FROM THE AIRPORT...

...SNIPER!

BLAMMM!

I DEMAND--
UGNN!

SNIPER!
DIVE FOR COVER!

KACHOWW!

NOOOOO!

'PENDY!
NOOOO!

...BUT NOT BEFORE THEY ARE
SPOTTED BY AN UNSEEN...

THE ROOF
SMITTY! HE'S ON
THE ROOF!

**BLAST
'IM!!**

NO GOOD!
HE'S STOPPED
FIRING!

AND BEFORE
WE COULD GET
UP THERE, HE'LL
BE HALFWAY TO
MANHATTAN!

BETTER GET
AN AMBULANCE...!
LET'S SEE IF WE
CAN SAVE ONE OF
THESE TWO!

TWO DAYS LATER, AT NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY, A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN RETRIEVES THE DAILY MAIL FOR HIS BLIND FATHER... **PROFESSOR CONRAD VAN HELSING.**

LOOKS LIKE YOUR NOTORIOUS **SIXTH SENSE** WAS **WRONG** THIS TIME, DAD!

AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE THERE TO BE, THERE'S STILL NO LETTER FROM **VAMPI** OR **PEN**!

ONLY A COUPLE OF **BILLS**, AND YOUR **NEW YORK NEWSPAPER**!

BUT I WAS SO **SURE** THERE WOULD BE SOMETHING **TODAY!** A-AND I JUST CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING **DREADFUL** HAS HAPPENED TO THEM!

PERHAPS IN THE **PAPER**, **ADAM**? LOOK IN THE **NEWSPAPER**!

GOOD GOD! NO!

WHAT IS IT, SON?

I-IT'S **VAMPI**... **PENDRAGON**...

...T-THEY'VE BEEN **SHOT**!

DEAR LORD! HOW **BADLY**, **ADAM**?

IT SAYS HERE THAT BOTH ARE IN **CRITICAL** CONDITION! THEY WERE SHOT BY AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT SHORTLY AFTER BEING **ARRESTED** ON SIX COUNTS OF **MURDER**!

MURDER? DAD, DO YOU HEAR THAT? **VAMPI**'S BEING CHARGED WITH THE **DEATHS** OF SIX PEOPLE!

CALM DOWN, SON!

IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER! SHE IS A **VAMPIRESS** AFTER ALL!

BUT THAT'S NOT AS IMPORTANT NOW AS **VAMPI**'S **LIFE**!

OBVIOUSLY SOMEONE WANTS HER **DEAD**!

AND IF THEY MISSED THEIR FIRST CRACK AT HER, THEY'RE LIKELY TO TRY **AGAIN**!

BUT WHO WOULD KILL BOTH **PENDRAGON** AND **VAMPIRELLA**?

HELL, I CAN'T ANSWER THAT!
I HAVEN'T BEEN WITH VAMPI ON
HER RITZY EUROPEAN JAUNTS!

I DON'T KNOW
WHO SHE'S BITTEN,
KILLED OR MADE
LOVE TO LATELY...

...ANY OF WHOM
WOULD POSSIBLY
WANT HER DEAD?



WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT
EUROPEAN JAUNTS, ADAM!
THIS HAPPENED RIGHT HERE
...IN NEW YORK!

WHO DO WE KNOW IN
THIS COUNTRY THAT MIGHT
WANT BOTH YOUR GIRL AND
HER MAGICIAN COMPANION
DEAD ...

... AND WHO
HAS THE POWER
TO DO IT?

YOU TELL ME!
YOU'RE THE ONE
WITH THE SIXTH
SENSE!



SIXTH SENSE HAS NOTHING TO
DO WITH IT, BOY! IT'S A SIMPLE
MATTER OF DEDUCTION!

VAMPI HAS MADE A LOT OF
ENEMIES, TO BE SURE! BUT
THINK WHO THEY ARE!
THE COBRA QUEEN, DRACULA,
PAPA VOODOO AND THE
CULT OF CHAOS!

ALL WOULD LOVE TO
SEND VAMPI TO HER
GRAVE, BUT EACH WOULD
GO ABOUT IT IN A MYSTICAL,
UNEARTHLY
WAY!



THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO
WOULD TRY A GANGLAND TYPE
KILLING LIKE THIS...

...PENDRAGON'S DAUGHTER,
SARA GRANVILLE!

AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT
HER JAIL TERM SHOULD
JUST ABOUT BE OVER BY
NOW!



YEAH! IT MAKES SENSE!
SARA'S HUSBAND WAS A BIG
MAN IN THE RACKETS!

BUT HE MADE THE MISTAKE
OF PUMPING SOME DOPE INTO
VAMPI! SHE KILLED HIM
BECAUSE OF IT! *



SARA SWORE VENGEANCE
BEFORE THEY TOOK HER OFF TO
JAIL. SAID SHE'D COME BACK AND
KILL VAMPIRELLA AND
PENDRAGON.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE
SHE JUST MIGHT
SUCCEED, ADAM!



MEANWHILE, IN AN ELEGANT NEW YORK PENTHOUSE, SARA GRANVILLE ENTERTAINS A VERY EXCLUSIVE GUEST!

YOU DID EXCELLENTLY, RAVEN! JUST AS I INSTRUCTED!

A LESSER MAN MIGHT HAVE ACCIDENTALLY KILLED ONE OF HIS TARGETS.

YOU PAY ME TO PUT THE BULLETS WHERE YOU SAY, MRS. GRANVILLE!

I'M A PRO! I DON'T MISS!

WHICH IS WHY I BOUGHT YOU AND TRUST YOU IMPLICITLY, RAVEN.

EVERYTHING'S WORKED JUST AS I'VE PLANNED.

WE PLANTED EVIDENCE IMPLICATING VAMPIRELLA IN THE DEATH OF MY HUSBAND AND SEVERAL OF HIS MEN...

...WE EVEN TIPPED THE POLICE TO THE GIRL'S ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK!

THE GIRL AND MY BELOVED FATHER, PENDRAGON, WILL BOTH GO TO TRIAL FOR MURDER...

IN ADDITION, THEY'RE SUFFERING PHYSICALLY, JUST AS THEY MADE MY HUSBAND SUFFER BEFORE THEY SLAUGHTERED HIM.*

BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET! NEXT, THEY'LL EACH SUFFER AS I DID! THEY'LL UNDERGO THE MENTAL ANGUISH OF LOSING A LOVED ONE!

YES, RAVEN, WITH YOUR HELP, MY REVENGE WILL BE COMPLETE!

WE ATTACK VAMPIRELLA AND MY FATHER, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY! AND AFTER WE'RE THROUGH, THE LAW PUTS THEM AWAY FOR GOOD!

WHEN IT'S OVER, MY HUSBAND WILL BE ABLE TO REST IN HIS GRAVE, AVENGED...

... AND I'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN HOME, TO MY LITTLE BOY... AND TO MY MOTHER!

TONIGHT WE BEGIN THE FINAL PHASE OF OUR PLAN, RAVEN!

TONIGHT, YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL... TO KILL!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, CONRAD AND ADAM VAN HELSING ARRIVE AT NEW YORK **MEDICAL CENTER**, WHERE THEIR TWO COMRADES LIE IN CRITICAL CONDITION...!

I'LL GO LOOK IN ON **PENDRAGON**, MY BOY. I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO SEE THE **GIRL** FIRST!

THANKS, DAD! I'LL MEET YOU **LATER**!

SO YOU'RE A **FRIEND** OF THE MYSTERY GIRL'S, EH, PAL? WELL, IF THAT'S **SO**, MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME AND THE **DOC** HERE A LITTLE **ABOUT** HER!

I'M MOST INTRIGUED BY HER **TOTAL LACK** OF A **BLOOD TYPE**, **YOUNG MAN**!

LOOK, DOCTOR... I CAN TELL YOU **ALL** ABOUT THE GIRL! **THAT'S** NOT IMPORTANT **NOW**! WHAT **IS**, IS THAT SOMEONE MAY COME HERE TO **KILL** HER! MAYBE EVEN **TONIGHT**!

WE **ALREADY** FIGURED THAT, KID! IF ANYONE'S GONNA FINISH THE JOB THEY STARTED ON THIS LADY, THEY'LL HAVE TO GET PAST **ME** AND THE SECURITY GUARD FIRST!

ALRIGHT, SIR... I'M SURE YOU'LL DO YOUR JOB ADEQUATELY. I'LL ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS. BUT FIRST, I'D LIKE TO SEE **VAMPIRELLA**!

SURE, KID! BUT ONE WRONG MOVE IN THERE, AND YOU'RE A **DEAD MAN**!

NOW, HOW ABOUT YOU START BY TELLIN' US WHERE THIS GIRL **COMES FROM**!

S-SHE'S AN **EXTRATERRESTRIAL**!

SHE'S A **WHAT**?

I-IT'S **TRUE** THE GIRL IS A BEING FROM ANOTHER **PLANET**! SHE WAS ACCIDENTALLY BROUGHT TO EARTH BY AN UNMANNED **NASA** SPACECRAFT!

SHE... SHE'S **DIFFERENT** FROM EARTH PEOPLE IN THAT SHE REQUIRES **HUMAN BLOOD** EVERY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!

I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO ASK **WHY**?

WHY? TO **DRINK**, OF COURSE...! SHE... SHE'S LIKE A **VAMPIRE** NEEDING BLOOD TO **SURVIVE**!

OH, **CHRIST**, DOC! WE'VE GOT ANOTHER ONE FOR THE **PEANUT FACTORY**!

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT BELIEVING ME, BUT IT'S TRUE THE GIRL IS FROM OUTER SPACE... A PLANET CALLED DRAKULON!

LIKE IN DRACULA, THE VAMPIRE, RIGHT? HAH!



EXACTLY! DRACULA IS A NATIVE OF THE PLANET DRAKULON, TOO! ONCE HE ARRIVED HERE ON EARTH, HE TOOK THE NAME OF HIS NATIVE PLANET AS HIS OWN!

NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME YOU'VE MET THIS HERE DRACULA!



AS A MATTER OF FACT, I HAVE! SINCE I'VE MET VAMPIRELLA, I'VE ENCOUNTERED EVERY TYPE OF HORROR IMAGINABLE!

"THERE WAS PAPA YODDOU DICTATOR OF THE CARRIBEAN ISLAND COTE DE SOLEIL, WHO ROSE FROM HIS GRAVE TO REIGN FOREVER....!"

"WE FOUGHT A MAMMOTH MAN: EATING SLUG, SIDE BY SIDE WITH DRACULA, IN A FAR OFF NETHER-DIMENSION....!"



"DEMONS, GHOULS, GHOSTS, MUMMIES, LOCH EERIE MONSTERS AND EVEN SUN GODS HAVE CROSSED VAMPIY'S PATH SINCE SHE'S BEEN HERE ON EARTH! NO MATTER WHERE SHE GOES, SHE SEEMS TO ATTRACT THE SUPERNATURAL, LIKE AN ORCHID DRAWING MAGGOTS!"



ONE MORE THING
THE LADY SEEMS
TO ATTRACT...
NUTS!

YOU GOT
SOME NERVE
BOY, COMIN' IN
HERE, TELLIN'
US A STORY
LIKE THAT!

WHAT ARE YOU
TRYIN' TO
ACCOMPLISH...
A ONE-WAY TRIP
TO THE PSYCHO
WARD?

HOLD IT, LIEUTENANT!
I DON'T BELIEVE THESE WILD
STORIES ANY MORE THAN YOU!

BUT THE BOY MIGHT BE
RIGHT ABOUT THE GIRL
ORIGINATING FROM OUTER
SPACE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO
EXPLAIN HER STRANGE BODY
CHEMISTRY!

HER BLOOD SEEMS TO
BE COMPATIBLE WITH NOT
ONE, BUT ALL KNOWN
HUMAN BLOOD TYPES!

AND HER PHYSICAL
STRUCTURE... THE TISSUES,
MUSCLES, EVEN THE NERVES,
SEEM TOUGHER, MORE
HARDENED THAN THOSE OF
A NORMAL WOMAN!

NOT TO MENTION HER REGENERATIVE
POWERS.... THAT BULLET LEFT A
NASTY SUPERFICIAL HEAD WOUND...

... BUT IT'S HEALING ITSELF,
ALMOST AS THOUGH THE GIRL HAD
INCREDIBLE POWERS OVER HER
PHYSICAL BEING...

... CONTROL ENOUGH TO MAYBE EVEN
ALTAR HER BODY MAKE UP... CHANGE
INTO ANOTHER FORM IF SHE
WANTED TO!

I'D VENTURE TO SAY THAT
NO PHYSICIAN ON THIS
EARTH HAS EVER EXAMINED
THIS YOUNG WOMAN! IF THEY
HAD, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN
WRITTEN UP IN MEDICAL
JOURNALS FROM HERE TO
CHINA!

I'D SAY THERE WAS SOME
CREDENCE TO THE MAN'S
STORY, LIEUTENANT!

B-BUT ALIENS
FROM OUTER SPACE?
HELL! I'M WORKING ON
A MASS MURDER CASE,
DOC! I CAN'T CHALK IT
ALL UP TO SPACEMEN
IN MY REPORT!

WHATEVER YOU
WRITE ABOUT, I
HOPE IT'S
BELIEVABLE.

SHHH! THE
GIRL'S
REGAINING
CONSCIOUSNESS!

UGGGGNNN!

FIRST WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

I'VE DONE A LOT OF THINGS FOR YOU, HONEY, BUT **NOTHIN'** LIKE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO **NOW!**

LIEUTENANT! COME QUICK!

WHAT IS IT, GULP-BOY?

DROP THE GUN, OFFICER! AND REAL SLOW-LIKE, DIG OUT YOUR HANDCUFFS!

LIEUTENANT, I'M SORRY I'VE GOT TO DO THIS... BUT IT COULD BE **MORE** DANGEROUS FOR YOU IF I ALLOWED YOU TO KEEP **VAMPIRELLA** IN CUSTODY!

A-ADAM... PLEASE **HURRY...** I-I'M SO **WEAK!**

I **KNOW** WE'LL BE SEEN YOU AGAIN, LIEUTENANT! I SURE AS HELL HOPE YOU DON'T HOLD **GRUDGES!**

OKAY, BABY! LET'S **MOVE** IT! WE'VE GOT JUST **ONE** STOP TO MAKE ON THE WAY!

YOU'LL EXCUSE US, SIR, IF WE JUST **BORROW** THIS FOR A MOMENT!

MANY THANKS, PAL! THE LADY **ENJOYED** THAT IMMENSELY!

IF YOU CALL THE NURSE, MAYBE SHE'LL GIVE YOU A **REFUND** ON THE BOTTLE!

G'NIGHT NOW!

AND AS TWIN FIGURES SLINK INTO THE DARKNESS OF NEW YORK CITY'S STREETS, A LONE, VERY TIRED **OLD MAN** CONTINUES HIS VIGIL AT THE BEDSIDE OF HIS OLD FRIEND.

HE DOZES... THEN NODS BACK INTO **SEMI-WAKEFULNESS**...



...AND NEVER ONCE SEES THE DEADLY BARREL OF THE .38 CALIBRE SPECIAL POINTING DIRECTLY AT HIS **HEART**!

ONLY AT THE LAST MOMENT, DOES A TINGLING **SPECIAL SENSE** WARN HIM THAT ANYTHING IS WRONG AT ALL...



...BUT IT IS A WARNING THAT COMES MUCH **TOO LATE**!

B DAM!



YOU OKAY NOW, HONEY?

THE BLOOD HELPED A **LITTLE**, ADAM. BUT I'LL NEED **MORE** SOON!

A-AND I STILL FEEL **WEAK** FROM MY WOUND!



WELL, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT **ANY** OF IT, BABY! I'M WITH YOU NOW! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

IT MAY SEEM LIKE WE'VE GOT TROUBLES NOW, HONEY... BUT THEY AREN'T ANYTHING WE CAN'T **OVERCOME**!

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU, PEN, DAD AND MYSELF WILL ALL BE BACK **TOGETHER** AGAIN..

ALL OF US... HEALTHY, HAPPY AND READY FOR **GOOD TIMES**!



PROLOGUE

WHERE DOES WAR *END* ?
IS WAR AT END WHEN THE
LAST POOR, FOOLISH
SOLDIER HAS BEEN
SLAIN ?

IS IT OVER THEN ?



OR DOES IT TARRY A LITTLE
LONGER, WHILE WOMEN AND
CHILDREN SEARCH CARNAGE
STREWN BATTLEFIELDS FOR
MISSING SONS, FATHERS AND
HUSBANDS.

IS WAR OVER THEN ?



OR DOES THE PURE VIOLENCE
OF WAR'S *IDIOTCY*, ONCE UN-
LEASHED, KNOW NO BOUN-
DARIES? NEVER END ?

DOES IT CONTINUE TO RAGE
BLOODYLY THROUGHOUT SPACE
AND TIME ? TOUCH ALIEN
WORLD AFTER ALIEN WORLD ?
THEN PASS EVER ONWARD,
SEARCHING FOR NEW BLOOD
TO SPILL ?

IS WAR, THEN, A DISEASE WHICH, ONCE
BEGUN, RAVAGES ON UNTIL THERE ARE
NO NEW WORLDS TO SLAY ? NO MORE
BATTLEFIELDS TO DRENCH ? NO MORE
SOLDIERS ALIVE IN ALL INFINITY ?

PERHAPS *THEN*, WHEN THE LAST SOLDIER
LAYS STINKING AMID HIS OWN RUPTURED
ORGANS, THE EVIL PRESENCE, THIS
THING NAMED *WAR* WILL *STARVE*
ITSELF TO DEATH.

YET... I MYSELF AM STILL INVOLVED IN A WAR.
WAR FOLLOWS ME AS A STARVING WOLF HOUNDS
A HARE. IT SNAPS AT MY HEELS, IT HAS NEED TO
DEVOUR ME QUICKLY. FOR I AM THE *LAST*
SOLDIER.



TO RECOUNT MY TALE, I **TOO**, MUST BE **QUICK**.
THE WAR WILL AGAIN BE UPON ME... AND THEN
DIE. EVEN AS I DIE, I CAN FEEL IT **COMING**.
AS SILENTLY AS DRIFTING SNOW, AS PALE
AS MOONLIGHT, IT **COMES**. AND THERE WILL
BE THE FINAL BATTLE FOR **WAR** AND ITS
LAST SOLDIER.



I AM AT THE END OF MY
STRENGTH. FEVERED SICKNESS
WORKS **WORMS** IN MY GULLET.
BUT I PAY NO HEED TO THIS
PLAGUE. **PLAGUE** IS BUT AN
EXTENSION OF WAR'S EFFORTS
AGAINST MANKIND. TWO LETHAL
FANGS IN THIS ALL-DEVOURING
MOUTH.

THERE WILL BE NO WINNER.
EXCEPT, PERHAPS, HUMANITY
ITSELF. **I** COULD BE VICTOR
IN THIS FINAL GAMING. BUT
IT WOULD BE VICTORY ONLY
IF I **DIE**... THUS BURYING
WAR'S SHADOW IN A GRAVE
BESIDE ME.

THE **WOLVES** AT WAR'S END!



THERE IS... WAS MY HOME. IT
TOO NOW IS SILENT TRIBUTE TO
WAR'S PASSING. THE **PLAGUE**
RETURNED THERE BEFORE I. PITY.
MY VILLAGE DIES, CARRYING WITH
IT MY LIFEFULL OF MEMORIES. DYING
WITH IT ARE MY HOPES FOR A FUTURE
WHICH I WILL NEVER SEE. **THRICE** THE PITY.

AFTER SIX YEARS OF THE CRUSADES... OF MURDERING RUTHLESSLY IN THE NAME OF CHRIST IN PALESTINE... I RETURNED TO THE JEERS OF MY VILLAGE. NO MORE WELCOME THAN WOULD BE THE SARACENS, AGAINST WHOM I HAD WARRED.



MY LOVELY VILLAGE CLOYES. ONCE BRIGHT WITH THE PROMISE OF TOMORROW, AGLOW WITH THE MEMORY OF YESTERDAY, ALIVE WITH THE ZEST OF TODAY. IT HAD ALL CHANGED. CHANGED AS CERTAINLY AS HAD I.



THE WINDING COBBLE STREETS WERE EMPTY AND VOID OF WARMTH. WINDOWS WERE SHUTTERED, BOARDED AND BARRED. NO SMILING FACE PEERED FROM HOMELY WINDOWS. NO CHILDREN... CHILDREN! OH MY GOD, THE CHILDREN!



THERE WERE NO CHILDREN! GOD'S HOLY CRUSADES HAD TAKEN EVERY ONE OF THEM. FOR CLOYES, THERE WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE THE LAUGHTER OF PLAYING CHILDREN. FOR ONCE, A BOY NAMED STEPHEN HAD HAD A VISION OF JESUS.



JESUS HAD BIDDEN POOR, FOOLISH STEPHEN TO GATHER THE CHILDREN OF EUROPE AND LEAD THEM TO THE HOLY LAND.

I WAS BY HIS SIDE AS WE SAILED A TRAGIC JOURNEY TO SALVAGE JERUSALEM. TWENTY THOUSAND CHILDREN MARCHED OFF TO WAR SINGING "MERCY CLAYMANT" AND "VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS."



PERHAPS ONE HUNDRED OF US SURVIVED.

I AM THE LAST.

IN WAR, CHILDREN BECOME MEN AND MEN, SOLDIERS, WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF TIME'S GENTLE AGING.

ADULTHOOD COMES SWIFTLY, FORGED UPON THE ANVIL OF SLAUGHTER, SHAPED BY THE CLANGOROUS HAMMER OF MURDER. THEN, THERE WERE CHILDREN NO MORE.



ONLY DEAD AND DYING OLD MEN. I HAVE LIVED MANY LIFETIMES IN THE YEARS I SPENT BEFORE THE CROSS AND SWORD.

MY MEMORIES REACH NO FURTHER BACK THAN MY BIRTH UPON A SWORDPOINT. THE ONLY FATHER I REMEMBER NOW, IS WAR.



I HAVE NO MOTHER. I LOST MY TASTE FOR MOTHERHOOD IN THE RAVAGED WOMBS OF THE WOMEN I ROASTED UPON BLAZING PIKEBLADES, RAPED, RAVISHED, AND LEFT DYING IN THE WAKE AND NAME OF MY FATHER.



I CANNOT COUNT THE TIMES I HAVE LAUGHED CRUELY AS I WATCHED MEN LAY WASTE TO FLESH AND FIELD, THEN ERECT CHRIST'S STATUE TO SANCTIFY THE BLOOD SPILT THERE IN HIS NAME.

RATHER THEY HAD HOISTED UP A GREAT ERECT PHALLUS TO MARK THEIR DEEDS... THEN PRAYED TO IT!



THEN... AS SUDDENLY AS WAR'S MADDENED ONSLAUGHT, THERE WERE VICTORIES ENOUGH TO SATIATE GOD'S WRATH MOMENTARILY. I TOOK LEAVE OF MY BLOODY BATTLEFIELDS AND CAME HOME. I HAD LEFT MY HOME A CHILD, AND RETURNED A FULL GROWN BUTCHER.



BUT EVEN THE BUTCHER IS APT TO FALL UNKNOWINGLY INTO FICKLE LOVE'S SOFT IRON SNARE. 'T WAS THEN I MET MY FAIR ELENORE AMID THE DAPPLED AUTUMN WOOD.

BUT AGAIN, WAR'S IRON BELLS TOLLED ME BACK INTO THE FIELDS OF CHRIST'S BLOODY HONOR.



ELENORE WAS LEFT BEHIND, TENDING MY LOVE WHICH I LEFT EMBEDDED FOR KEEPING WITHIN HER GENTLE HEART. I HAD NOW RETURNED TO FIND THE SPARK OF MY SOUL... AND ITS KEEPER, ELENORE.

BUT THIS DAY CLOYES OFFERED ME NO **WARMTH**... ONLY COLD STIFFENING **BODIES** STREWN RECKLESSLY BEHIND IN WAKE OF THE PLAGUE.



I HAD RETURNED TO A **DEAD** CITY TO FIND A **LIVING** LOVE. MY FEAR ROSE BEYOND MY FEVERINGS.

HOW WOULD I FIND MY **ELENORE**? ALIVE AND AGLOW AS I HAD LEFT HER? OR AS BUT ANOTHER **MISTRESS** TO THE **BLACK DEATH**?



EVERYWHERE I BEHELD SIGNS SCRAWLED IN **BLOOD**, BEGGING **GOD'S** **PITY** UPON THE **DYING**. AND HIS **FORGIVENESS** UPON THE **DEAD**.

AS I PROCEEDED THROUGH THE PLAGUE WRACKED CITY, I CAUGHT SIGHT OF A **FUNERAL PROCESSION**... HOLY MEN CHANTING A **DEATH DIRGE** FOR WHOM? MY FEVERED BLOOD CHILLED WITHIN MY VEINS.



IRONY! NE HAD CROSSED OCEAN, BREACHED A CONTINENT AFOOT, AFFLICTED A FOREIGN RACE WITH OUR HOLY WAR AND ALIEN STEEL... AND WHAT HAD WE BROUGHT HOME AS A SIGN OF VICTORY!



NOT CAPTURED POTENTATES, NOT RANSOMED KINGS AS PRISONERS, NOT SO MUCH AS A CAPTURED FLAG, WE HAD BROUGHT HOME THE BLACK DEATH... COMPLIMENTS OF THE HOLY LAND WE HAD RAVAGED.

MY HORSE FERRIED ME, WANDERING THROUGH ANCIENT HALF-REMEMBERED STREETS, AS IF IN AN OPiate DREAM, I REELED DRUNKENLY IN THE SADDLE. THEN... I SAW MEN JUST AHEAD.

THROUGH MY FEVERED GAZE I DREW NEAR... WATCHING THEM.



THEY WERE NAILING SHUT THE DOORS AND WINDOWS TO A ONCE COMELY HOUSE.

THIS... IS THE CITY DNELLING OF MY FAMILY. WHY DO YOU ENTOMB IT SO, HOLYMAN? I AM HOME FROM THE WARS. I....

THEN YOU HAVE COME HOME TO A FUNERAL VAULT. THE FAMILY WITHIN IS DEAD. THE BLACK PLAGUE HAS BEEN A RECENT ROOMER HERE.



BACK AWAY FROM THAT DOOR, MONK! I AM RETURNED HOME TO CLAIM MY FAMILY'S LEGACY!



THE ONLY LEGACY TO CLAIM HERE IS DEATH! NOW IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, LORD... LEAVE THIS FOLDED PLACE!

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST I'VE SLAIN MORE HOLY THAN YOU!

AND IN THAT NAME I ADD YOU TO MY LISTS!



NOO!

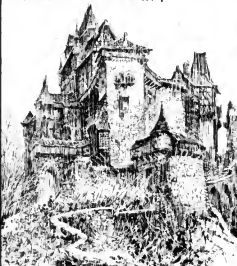
SIR KNIGHT! YOU RAISE SWORD AGAINST A MAN OF GOD!

SLAY HIM AND I WILL FELL YOU AS READILY AS I CUT DOWN THE RIPENED WHEAT IN MY FIELDS!



TRULY MY VILLAGE **HAD CHANGED** AS MUCH AS I DURING THESE CRUEL YEARS. NO LONGER WAS THERE A RULING CLASS. THE **COMMONERS** CONTROLLED WHAT PRECIOUS LITTLE THERE WAS TO CONTROL.

I WAS A LORD, A KNIGHT. BUT NOW IT MEANT **NOTHING**. I WAS BUT A **SYMBOL** OF EVERYTHING THESE PEASANTS HELD IN **CONTEMPT**. THEY EVEN HELD ME RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE PLAGUE DOWN UPON THEM. PERHAPS THEY WERE **RIGHT**!



I WOULD HAVE RIDDEN AWAY THEN. BUT A PLEA FROM INSIDE THE WALLED-UP DWELLING MADE ME REALIZE MY **YOUNG SISTER** WAS TRAPPED ALIVE WITHIN THE HOUSE.



I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RESCUE HER. WE MADE OUR ESCAPE. BUT FEVER HAD WEAKENED MY SWORD-ARM. THE PRIEST, THOUGH WOUNDED, STILL LIVED.

YOU WILL COME QUICKLY AFOLLOWING US TO **DEATH'S DOOR**, KNIGHT!



THE WOMAN YOU HAVE SAVED IS **CURSED**! SHE **CAVORTS** WITH **DEMONS**! THAT IS WHY THE **FAMILY** IS **DEAD** AND SHE **STILL LIVES**!

KILL HER!
KILL HER!
OR DIE!



I HAD NOT SEEN THE GIRL IN **TOO** MANY LONG YEARS. SHE WAS A **FULL-BREASTED** WOMAN NOW.

BECAUSE THE PLAGUE PASSED HER BY THEY SAID SHE WAS A **DEMONESS**.



OFTEN SEEN RIDING UPON THE WINDS. WALKING UPON SUMMER'S PONDS. DANCING **NAKED** IN THE FULL MOONLIGHT. **COPULATING** WITH LEATHERN WING'D **DEMONS** REEKING OF **SULPHUR**.

FOLLY! CRAZED RANTINGS OF RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS! I TOOK HER FROM THAT PLACE OF DISEASE AND UNNATURAL DEATH.



A GENTLE FLOWER SHE WAS, AMID A FESTERING GRAVEYARD OF CORPSES AND MADMEN. A FLOWER, BUT STRONG. SHE MADE NO SOUND AS I BORE HER AWAY INTO THE NIGHT'S QUIET COLD... SEARCHING FOR SOME TINY ILLUSION OF SAFETY... AND MY LOST ELENORE.



ALTHOUGH I WAS MILES FROM INSANE CLOVES, I COULD ALMOST HEAR THE SORDID WHISPERS OF GOD'S OWN ASSASSINS!

THE GIRL IS A SORCERESS. SHE MUST BE SLAIN WITH IRON BLESSED WITH SACRAMENTS AND HOLY OILS. THAT FOOL UNWITTINGLY UNLEASHES HER EVIL UPON THE WORLD.

FOLLOW HIM. KILL THEM BOTH IF NEED BE. GOD COMMANDS IT OF US.

ANCIENT MINE IRON AXE OF GOD'S BLESSINGS AND I WILL BE DONE!

OUI. STRAIGHT-AWAY DO WE FOLLOW THEIR TRAIL!



MY THOUGHTS WERE BECOMING MORE MUDDLED. A THICK YELLOW HAZE LAY ACROSS MY MIND. MY VISION SWIRLED AND OFT TIMES I SNOOZED STILL SITTING ASTRIDE MY SADDLE!

MY SISTER'S STRONG ARMS HELD ME. GAVE ME STRENGTH TO CONTINUE SEARCHING.



AND...OFT TIMES IN A FEVERED DREAM, I WOULD HEAR THE WORD MY PARCHED LIPS EVER CHANTED. ELENORE, ELENORE. AGAIN AND AGAIN.

MY HORSE WAS WEARYING. WE MUST FIND SHELTER SOON OR PERISH. BUT AT HOUSE AFTER HOUSE. MY SISTER WOULD LEAN CLOSE AND WHISPER. "TIS DISEASED!"



AND ON WE'D SEARCH. THERE WOULD BE SHELTER SOMEWHERE.

FATIGUE OVERTOOK OUR SEARCH.
WOLVES, LEAN AND STARVED
FROM WINTER'S FAMINE, HOWLED
IN THE FOREST LONGING FOR A
BELLYFULL OF FLESH.



WE SPENT THE NIGHT IN THE
BOULDS OF A MASSIVE OAK.
FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST,
WE WERE SAFE.

STARVATION MADE THE WINTER
WOLVES BRAVE AND OUR PRE-
SENCE MADE THEM VIOLENT.

THEY GATHERED JUST BELOW
OUR BRANCHES TO TORMENT
US TO SLEEP.



SLAVERING JAWS AND SHRIEK-
ING STRAINING CRADLED MY
FEVERED MIND TOWARD
SLUMBER.



SLEEP CREEPT UPON ME EVEN BE-
FORE I KNEW, AND QUICKLY UPON
SLEEP'S TAILS THERE CAME
WANTON DREAMS OF ELENORE,
MY LOVE, ELENORE.



SHE RUSHED TOWARD ME.
I HELD HER IN MY ARMS,
THEN LIFTED HER CHIN,
EAGER TO PRESS HER
LIPS WITH MINE.



BUT PLAGUES FEVERED
DREAMS NEVER LET THE
SLEEPER LIE! MY LIPS
TOUCHED NOT HER FULL
CHERRY MOUTH, BUT A
DEATHHEAD'S GRIN
INSTEAD!

WAS IT SOME CRUEL DREAM-
JEST PLAYED UPON ME OR
VISIONS OF THINGS YET TO
BE? I AWOKE BACK INTO
MY TREEBOUGH BED SCREAM-
ING MY HEART TO BURST!

NOOOO!
NOOO!



I SAW MY ELENORE...
ALIVE BUT YET DEAD...
AMID THE RUINS OF HER
CHATEAU... DEAR GOD...
IT IS KILLING ME.

DEAR GOD... THE
FEVER IS KILLING ME...
EVEN IN MY SLEEP.



MY DREAMS WERE KILLING ME...
IN MORE WAYS THAN I KNEW.
MY SCREAMS HAD CHASED AWAY
THE WOLVES. BUT AT THE
SAME TIME HAD TOLD ANOTHER
KIND OF WOLF PACK WHERE
WE WERE.



AS WE MOUNTED AGAIN, TO CONTINUE OUR
JOURNEY TOWARD ELENORE'S CASTLE, I ASKED
MY SISTER IF THE WOLVES WERE STILL
AROUND. SHE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO WOLVES
AT ALL. THEY, TOO, I HAD CONJURED UP IN MY
MIND.



I KNEW THAT WITH EVERY
PAINFUL BREATH I DREW
WE CAME NEARER TO THE
PLACE WHERE I WOULD
FIND MY LOVE.



MY "SORCERESS" HELD ME LOVINGLY WITHIN
THE SADDLE, WIPING AWAY ENDLESS RIVULETS
OF BLINDING SWEAT WHICH POURED INTO MY
NEAR SIGHTLESS EYES.

I REALIZED I WAS DEPENDING SOLELY
UPON HER STRENGTH.

YET, THERE WERE OTHER WOLVES WATCHING,
STALKING, WAITING TO DELIVER GOD'S GRACES.

SUPPENDING THE ORDEAL WAS ENDED! THE CASTLE OF ELENORE'S FATHER LOOKED BEFORE OUR WEARY GAZE. STUMBLING UNSURELY, LEADING MY PAINFULLY WEAKENED HORSE, I WONDERED SILENTLY OF WHAT I WOULD FIND WITHIN THOSE CRUMBLING WALLS. I **MUST FIND ELENORE** AND THE **LOVE** I HAD ENTRUSTED TO HER KEEPING. I HAD NOTHING ELSE. IF IT WAS NOT THERE...IF **SHE** WAS NOT...I WOULD DIE AS EVEN NOW I LIVED. **EMPTY.**

I LEFT MY SISTER WITH MY HORSE IN THE INNER COURT, JUST BEYOND THE LOWERED DRAW-BRIDGE. MY HEART WAS SINKING. SURELY NO ONE REMAINED WITHIN THAT MOCKING SHELL. AND YET I MUST SEARCH.



THEN, WITHIN THE GROUNDS, FRAMED IN A DOORWAY, MY DREAMS AGAIN BECAME FLESH / ELENORE! STANDING LIKE A VISION OF LOVELINESS, RUSHING THEN INTO MY ARMS.



I HELD HER... AND KNEW THAT MY RETURN FROM THE WAR RAVAGED HOLY LAND HAD BEEN WORTH THE PAIN AND EFFORT IT HAD COST ME.



ELENORE! MY LOVE!
I... I WAS SORE AFRAID!
I HAVE LIVED THIS VERY SCENE COUNTLESS TIMES IN COUNTLESS DREAMS!

SEEING YOU. HOLDING YOU. DRINKING IN THE SIGHT OF YOUR LOVELINESS. NOW... AT LAST, IT HAS ALL COME TRUE!



OUTSIDE, THE "DEMONESS" WAITED FOR ME. SHE HEARD NOT THE FOOTFALLS OF THE WOLVES OF GOD.

IT WAS A DREAM REALIZED. EXCEPT, THERE WAS NO DEATHHEAD AT ITS FINISH. ELENORE PREVAILED OVER MACABRE WRAITHS AND SWEPT AWAY MY FEARS WITH HER GENTLE, WARM TOUCH. I DRANK IN HER PRESENCE UNTIL I WAS HEADY AND DRUNK UPON HER LOVE. IT ROSE AND FELL, CRASHING UPON MY SOUL LIKE SEA BREAKERS. IT CONSUMED ME. AND I THUS YIELDED TO THAT CONSUMPTION!

YET... SOMETHING WAS STRANGE ABOUT HER. SHE WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS WHEN I'D SEEN HER LAST YEARS AGO. NOT ONE SINGLE HAIR WAS CHANGED, RATHER THAN EXPLORE THE REASONS FOR THIS, I CHOSE TO MAKE MYSELF MORE DRUNKEN UPON HER LUSHNESS.



MY SISTER STOOD TRANSFIXED IN THE RUINED COURTYARD. HER MIND'S EYE WAS TURNED INWARD. SHE NEVER SAW THE WOLVES SURROUND HER UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.



I HEARD MY SISTER SCREAM... AND SCREAM AGAIN. AND THE DULL THUD OF AN AXE ON SOFT FLESH. GOD'S WILL HAD BEEN DONE. UPON MY SISTER THE SPELL WAS BROKEN.



FOR EVEN AS THE SORCERESS' SCREAMS DIED AWAY... SO TOO DID MY VISION OF ELENORE.

ELENORE? ARE YOU HERE?
ELENORE?
ELENORE?
MY LOVE!



MY SISTER! NOW I REALIZED SHE WAS A SORCERESS! SHE HAD WOVEN A SPELL FOR ME... NOW IT WAS GONE! AND I BEHELD MY ELENORE AS SHE TRULY WAS!



ELENORE!

MY SORCERESS HAD LOOKED UPON HER BROTHER...A DISEASED AND DYING MAN...A MAN WITHOUT REASON...A MAN WITHOUT PURPOSE OR MATTER.

SHE LOOKED UPON ME, AND SHE LOVED ME... DESPITE MY WRETCHEDNESS...AND CREATED FOR ME A REASON TO LIVE...A REASON TO LOVE.



THE SPELL SHE CAST UPON ME WAS A GENTLE THING...A LOVING THING...MEANT ONLY TO BRING ME JOY FOR THE SHORT TIME I HAD LEFT TO LIVE...NOW THE SPELL WAS GONE...AND SO WAS SHE.



I TOOK LEAVE OF HER THERE...I REMEMBER THE SIGHT OF HER FACE, AS DEATH CLOSED SOFT AROUND HER...AND I AM CERTAIN I GAZED UPON THE FACE OF PEACE.



I PRAYED TO THE GOD OF WAR...AT WHOSE ALTAR I HAD SACRIFICED...IN WHOM I NO LONGER BELIEVED...THAT IT WAS SO.



THE SORCERESS HAD COMMITTED AN ACT OF LOVE IN MY BEHALF...EVEN NOW PERHAPS SHE FOUND A REWARD OF IT...BEYOND THESE GATES OF MORTAL LIFE AND BITTER TEARS.



TIME NOW FOR ONE LAST LOOK BACK AT WHAT, ALAS, I HAD LOST...MY HOME...MY FAMILY...MY LOVE...AND MY LIFE...ALL LAY HEAPED IN DEATH'S PYRES...WAITING FOR ME TO JOIN THEM.



MY LOSSES ARE COUNTED. MY
TALE IS ENDED. IN THE SAME
PLACE MY WAR WILL END. I
CAN HEAR IT COMING. AS
SILENT AS DRIFTING SNOW...
AS PALE AS MOONLIGHT... IT
COMES.

THE FINAL BATTLE COMES FOR
WAR AND ITS LAST SOLDIER.

THE WOLVES! FROM BENEATH
THE TREE THE WOLVES EMERGE.
THE WOLVES I HAD CREATED
FROM MY OWN TORTURED
DREAMS. JUST AS I HAD
CREATED VISIONS OF ELENORE...
AND LIFE AND LOVE.

THEY ARE HERE AGAIN.
THE WOLVES OF MY
SOUL. THE WOLVES OF
WAR.

THERE WILL BE NO
VICTOR HERE. NOT
EVEN DEATH ITSELF.
I CANNOT KILL THEM.
NOR THEY ME. WE ARE
EACH OTHER'S
CREATIONS.

THE BATTLE WILL NEVER
BE DONE. I WILL CARRY
IT WITH ME... BEYOND THIS
LIFE... INTO ETERNITY!

UPON THE BATTLEFIELDS I REALIZED
THERE WAS NO GOD. I CAN ONLY
HOPE THERE IS NO HELL. FOR I
HAVE BEEN TO HELL. AND THEY
CALL IT A HOLY WAR.

IN MY SEARCH FOR JUSTICE I CREATED
WAR.

IN MY SEARCH FOR WAR I CREATED DEATH.
IN MY SEARCH FOR DEATH... I HAVE LOST
MY SOUL.

PROLOGUE

IT WAS OVER FOR ANOTHER DAY.

EVEN IN HER EARLIEST MEMORIES, CARLY GRANT WANTED TO BE A DANCER. SHE SOMETIMES ENVISIONED HERSELF PERFORMING WITH THE NEW YORK BALLET, GLIDING GRACEFULLY DELICATELY ACROSS THE STAGE.



THE BALLET WAS NO MORE THAN THIRTY BLOCKS AWAY, YET IT SEEMED A MILLION MILES FROM THIS SLEAZY BURLESQUE HOUSE THAT SMELLED OF LIQUOR AND SEMEN AND OTHER BODILY FUNCTIONS.



NOT THAT SHE REALLY MINDED HER JOB. SHE HAD LONG ALSO CONVINCED HERSELF THAT SHE PERFORMED A PUBLIC SERVICE FOR LONELY, TIVID MEN WHO WATCHED EVERY MOVEMENT OF HER BODY WITH SECRET VICARIOUS SMILES.



STILL, SHE WISHED JUST ONCE TO HEAR THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE FOR HER TALENT, RATHER THAN THE SIZE OF HER MAMMARIES.

IT WAS AT 1:25 ON A MILD APRIL MORNING THAT CARLY GRANT LEARNED IT DIDN'T MAKE A DAMN BIT OF DIFFERENCE ANYWAY!



THAT WAS THE TIME SHE WAS ATTACKED BY THE EASTER BUNNY!

the EASTER BUNNY MURDERS

IT SEEMED TO DETECTIVE BENNY BIGGERS THAT SPRING FEVER HAD DEVELOPED INTO SPRING PNEUMONIA. AS THE SNOW MELTS IN A CITY, SO DO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS THAT CAUSE MEN TO HIBERNATE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

AND WHEN THERE IS MORE **SOCIALIZING**, THERE IS MORE **ANTI-SOCIALIZING**. THE NUMBER OF KNIFINGS, MUGGINGS, AND ASSAULTS RISE PROPORTIONATELY. IT WAS NOW APRIL, AND THEY SHOWED NO SIGN OF LETTING UP.



EVEN WHEN BENNY BIGGERS HEARD THE REPORTS OF **FOURTEEN EYEWITNESSES**, INCLUDING PATROLMAN DAVE EVERLY, HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT.

BUT THE WOMAN WAS DEAD... THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT...!



AND THE LAB BOYS *DID* FIND TRACES OF SHORT, WHITE *HUR* MINGLED WITH THE BLOOD AND THE VICTIM'S OWN HAIR.

NOTWITHSTANDING, IN THE FACE OF SUCH INSURMOUNTABLE **EVIDENCE**, BENNY BIGGERS HAD TO OPERATE UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WAS TRUE.



TELL ME, DAVE. TELL ME THIS IS SOME KIND OF BELATED APRIL FOOL JOKE. YOU DIDN'T REALLY SEE A SEVEN FOOT RABBIT.

YOU THINK I COERCED FOURTEEN PEOPLE TO SWEAR TO THE SAME STORY?

OF COURSE I SAW A SEVEN FOOT RABBIT.



WHAT DID IT DO... JUST HOP AWAY?

NO! IT DUCKED INTO THE EIGHTH AVENUE SUBWAY STATION. I LOST IT THERE.



A SEVEN FOOT RABBIT DOESN'T RIDE THE A TRAIN WITHOUT SOMEONE NOTICING. NOT EVEN IN THIS CITY!

UNLESS IT WAS ABLE TO ALTER IT'S FORM... LIKE A VAMPIRE OR WEREWOLF!



ARE YOU KIDDING? WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE... SEVEN FOOT BUNNIES OR MONSTERS?

AND ONE WEEK BEFORE EASTER TOO; YOU KNOW WHAT, EVERLY? I THINK WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE EASTER BUNNY!







EMMANUEL GOMES WAS ALSO AWARE OF APRIL'S WARATH AND WILDNESS, AND IT PLEASED HIM. **EASTER** WAS COMING, AND **EASTER** WAS PERHAPS HIS FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR.

TRUE, MOST OF ITS MEANING HAD LONG AGO BEEN FORGOTTEN. STILL, HE ENJOYED THE PARADES, THE ELEGANT FASHIONS, AND THE BRIGHT COLORS.



HE SMILED AS HE RECALLED THE EASTER OF HIS CHILDHOOD. THE GAUDY, PAINTED EGGS, THE CHILDISH GIGGLING AS HE WAITED FOR THE EASTER BUNNY.

IT WAS A SHAME THAT PEOPLE OUTGREW SUCH FANTASIES AS THE EASTER BUNNY.



EMMANUEL GOMES HAD OUTGROWN IT LONG AGO.

THAT WAS WHY HE SCREAMED HIS FOOL HEAD OFF WHEN HE FOUND HIMSELF STANDING FACE TO FACE WITH IT.



THE SCREAMING ATTRACTED A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION, UNFORTUNATELY. IT DID NOT SAVE EMMANUEL GOMES' LIFE.

IT DID, HOWEVER, HAVE SIXTEEN EYEWITNESSES WONDERING IF THEY HAD LOST THEIR MINDS.



MEANWHILE ...!



DR. CRUDDEN?

YES. I REALIZE THE CALL MUST HAVE SOUNDED PREPOSTEROUS. BUT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT SALVAMIO'S PREVIOUS RECORD AS A HEROIN ADDICT.

IN HIS PRESENT CONDITION, THE INTRODUCTION OF DRUGS INTO HIS SYSTEM MIGHT PHYSICALLY TRANSFORM HIM!

INCLUDING THE TRANSFORMATION OF MAN INTO ANIMAL?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I'M SAYING THAT UNLESS THERE IS AN EPIDEMIC OF MADNESS IN THIS CITY, A REACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE.

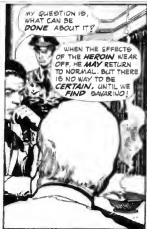
AND IT HAS ALREADY KILLED AT LEAST ONE WOMAN.

MY QUESTION IS, WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?

WHEN THE EFFECTS OF THE HEROIN WEAR OFF, HE MAY RETURN TO NORMAL. BUT THERE IS NO WAY TO BE CERTAIN, UNTIL WE FIND SALVAMIO!

SAY, BENNY, THE DOC MADE SENSE. SUPPOSE THE EFFECTS OF THE HEROIN DID WEAR OFF AFTER HE DISAPPEARED INTO THE SUBWAY STATION. I WAS LOOKING FOR A RABBIT NOT A MAN...

I MIGHT HAVE WALKED RIGHT BY HIM WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT!



WORD JUST IN OVER
THE **RADIO!** THE EASTER
BUNNY'S STRUCK AGAIN.
THIS TIME NEAR BROADWAY
AND 49TH.

THE EASTER
BUNNY? HEY, THAT'S
CUTE. YOU COPS HAVE
A SENSE OF HUMOR.



"YEAH, WE'RE **MILARIOUS**," SAID PATROLMAN
DAVE TVERLY, AS THE CAR SPED TOWARD THE
SCENE OF THE LATEST MURDER, WHERE EMMANUEL
GOMES WAS **NOT** LAUGHING.



THE SIXTEEN EYEWITNESSES **CONFIRMED** THE
IDENTITY OF THE ATTACKER WITH SOME DEGREE OF
APPREHENSION. NOT THAT THEY DIDN'T WANT
TO GET **INVOLVED**... JUST THAT THEY DIDN'T
WANT TO BE **COMMITTED TO BELLEFIE**.

ONE QUESTION, DOC.
WHO WAS SAVARINO'S **CONNECTION**
BEFORE HE WAS SENT UP?



A MAN NAMED **MASTELLO**.
I BELIEVE. NOTHING COULD BE **PROVEN**
AGAINST HIM. SO HE GOT OFF FREE
AND CLEAR.

CHANCES ARE
IF SAVARINO WAS
LOOKING FOR A
FIX, HE'D GO
BACK TO
HIM!

WHERE DO
WE **FIND** THIS
MASTELLO?



THEY FOUND MRS. **MASTELLO** IN A RUNDOWN **HOTEL** IN
CHELSEA. HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO **SAY**. BUT HIS PERSONAL
BELONGINGS **SPOKE FOR THEMSELVES**.

THERE'S ENOUGH
HEROIN IN HERE TO KEEP
EVERY JUNKIE IN THE
CITY HIGH FOR THE NEXT
TWO YEARS!



THE TRACES OF **PUR**
ON THE FLOOR PROVE
CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE
EASTER BUNNY IS
OUR KILLER.

SAY, DOC...
I JUST HAD A
THOUGHT!



IN A LOT OF
THOSE OLD **MOVIES**,
THE MONSTER DOESN'T
REALIZE HE IS LEADING
A DOUBLE LIFE. WHEN HE'S
NORMAL... HE **FORGETS**
WHAT HE DID WHEN HE WAS
EN... **TRANSFORMED!**

THEY WAITED, NEARLY **TWENTY SEVEN** HOURS THEY WAITED, LONG SINCE CONVINCED THAT THE LONG SHOT WOULD NEVER PAY OFF, BUT **FINALLY...**!

DO YOU **HEAR** SOMETHING OUT THERE...?

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SO... IF SAVARINO DOESN'T **REMEMBER** KILLING MASTELLO, WHERE WILL HE **COME** WHEN HE NEEDS ANOTHER **FIX**? **BACK HERE!**

IT IS A **LONG** SHOT, BUT...

DO WE NAIL HIM BEFORE HE UNDERGOES **TRANSFORMATION**?

HE DOESN'T SEEM SURPRISED THAT MASTELLO IS **DEAD**.

HE DOESN'T CARE RIGHT NOW. ALL HE'S INTERESTED IN IS THE **FIX**.

NO. WE COULD BOOK HIM FOR POSSESSION OF **NARCOTICS** AGAIN, BUT THAT STILL WOULDN'T PROVE HE'S OUR **EASTER BUNNY**.

IF WE WANT THE COURTS TO **BELIEVE** US, WE HAVE TO **WAIT** TILL THE **TRANSFORMATION** HAS **TAKEN PLACE!**

YES, THEY HAD WAITED FOR **TWENTY SEVEN** HOURS. YET, THAT FINAL FIFTEEN MINUTES SEEMED PERHAPS THE **LONGEST** PERIOD OF ALL. THEN **SUDDENLY...**!

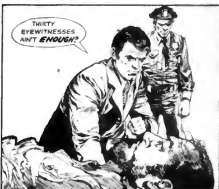
THIS IS IT. GAVE, LET'S **MOVE...**

IF YOU CAN DO IT WITHOUT **HURTING** HIM, PERHAPS THE EXPERIMENT CAN STILL BE **CARRIED OUT**.

I DIDN'T **HEAR** THAT LAST REMARK. I MEAN, I REALLY DIDN'T **HEAR** IT. DOG, ARE YOU **CRAZY**?

BY NO MEANS. MY JOB IS TO **SAVE** THE LIVES OF **CANCER** PATIENTS FROM SAVARINO'S UNUSUAL REACTION. I MAY HAVE STUMBLERD ONTO SOMETHING!

WELL, I HAVE A **JOB** TOO...



GUILT OF THE DEAD!

MONTE CIGERO, 1939. IT WAS OVER. THE SEARCHING, THE DIGGING, THE ANTICIPATION, THE DISAPPOINTMENTS WERE BEHIND THEM, SUPPLANTED BY THE THRILL OF DISCOVERY.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE GUATTARI CAVE.

IT APPEARS WE HAVE UNEARTHED AN ANCIENT TEMPLE, GENTLEMEN. THE BONES SCATTERED ABOUT THE ALTAR SUGGEST BOTH ANIMAL AND HUMAN SACRIFICE!

THE CAVITY ON THE SIDE OF THE SKULL, DOCTOR... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A BLOW FROM A SHARP INSTRUMENT CRUSHED HIS SKULL AND...

... CURIOUS... I MAY BE MISTAKEN, BUT CERTAIN TRACES ABOUT THE WOUND SUGGEST THAT THE BRAIN MAY HAVE BEEN REMOVED!

ARE YOU SERIOUS, DOCTOR? WHY ON EARTH WOULD THEY DO THAT?

IT WAS A COMMON BELIEF AMONG EARLY TRIBES THAT SOME FORM OF LIFE EXISTED AFTER DEATH... WHAT CHRISTIANS WOULD CALL THE SOUL...

THUS, THEY BELIEVED THAT BY CONSUMING THE BRAIN OF THE DEAD, THE ESSENCE OF THE SPIRIT WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THEM... AS THE OLD SAYING GOES... YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!

WHAT A HORRIBLE CONCEPT!

PERHAPS, BUT THE IDEA HAS BEEN SHARED BY TRIBES AND CULTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY. MAN, IT SEEMS, WILL TRY ANYTHING TO ATTAIN IMMORTALITY.

CHICAGO, 1975. THE AUTUMN SKY WAS AS BLEAK AND GREY AS THE CONCRETE METROPOLIS BELOW, MAKING SPIRITS MUNDANE AND COLORLESS. THE BODY OF MARTIN GREYSTONE, AMPIKING YOUNG PANTER, DID LITTLE TO MAKE IAN HENRY'S DAY BRIGHTER.



NOT THAT THE CASE WAS MUNDANE. ANYTHING BUT. THE MAN'S HEAD HAD BEEN SMASHED IN, AND THE BRAIN APPARENTLY REMOVED. EVEN IN THE HIGH CRIME AREAS SUCH OCCURRENCES ARE RARE.

IT WAS MERELY THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER IN A LONG LIST OF HEADACHES THAT HENRY FOUND HIMSELF FACING.



EXCUSE ME, LT. HENRY... DO YOU HAVE-- P?

LOOK, WEASEL, WHAT STARTED OUT AS A BAD DAY HAS GOTTEN PROGRESSIVELY WORSE. WITH MY LUCK, THEY'D SUSPEND ME FOR PUNCHING A STUPID REPORTER IN THE MOUTH.



BUT IT ISN'T EVERY DAY, A MAN'S BRAIN IS PLUCKED OUT OF HIS HEAD.

SOMEONE MUST HAVE TAKEN HENRY'S AT BIRTH. NOW TAKE YOUR LITTLE NOTEBOOK AND CLEAR OUT.



TELL ME, JIM, WHY DID MATHESON HAVE TO PICK **THESE** TWO WEEKS TO GO ON VACATION. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY MADMAN IN THE CITY KNOWS HE'S GONE.

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE A **RITUAL** MURDER, LT.



RITUAL?

YES, YOU KNOW... **WITCHCRAFT, SATANISM** ... THAT WHOLE TRIP. IT'S BECOME **FASHIONABLE** NOWADAYS, AND EACH CULT GETS MORE OUTLANDISH THAN THE **LAST**.



I'LL STICK WITH THE **PERSONAL** ANGLE AND CHECK GREYSTONE'S **HISTORY**.



ALTHOUGH HE KNOWS HE WILL NEVER ADMIT IT, JIM BUCK WAS **THANKFUL** FOR THIS CASE. TO SOLVE SUCH A UNIQUE AND URGENT CRIME WOULD VIRTUALLY **ASSURE** PROMOTION, AND BUCK WAS A MOST **AMBITIOUS** ROOKIE.

INSTINCTUALLY, HE **KNEW** THE OCCULT ANGLE WAS CORRECT. AND IF **ANY** MAN COULD BE CALLED AN EXPERT ON THE SUBJECT, IT WAS **DR. HARKNESS**.



AARON R. HARKNESS
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY



REMEMBER ME, DOCTOR? I'M **JIM BUCK**, ONE OF YOUR FORMER **STUDENTS**.



OF COURSE, JIM. I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO **ASK** YOU WHAT YOU'VE BEEN **DOING** SINCE GRADUATION. WHAT BRINGS YOU **BACK** HERE?



INFORMATION, DOCTOR. I ALWAYS KNOW WHERE TO **COME** FOR **INFORMATION**.

ELSEWHERE, ROBERT THORN WAS **RELIEVED** THAT THE AFTERNOON MATINEE WAS OVER. HE STILL HAD A TOUCH OF **LARYNGITIS**, BUT HAD HELD UP SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE. THAT'S ALL THAT **MATTERED**.

IF MY THROAT FEELS NO BETTER BY TONIGHT, MY **UNDERSTUDY** MAY GET HIS FIRST CHANCE TO **PLAY**...

SUDDENLY...

WHAT THE F---?

YOU WILL **ACCOMPANY** US, MR. THORN... **QUIETLY**, IF YOU PLEASE.

MIGHT I ASK WHAT THIS IS **ABOUT**?

CERTAINLY, MR. THORN YOU ARE ABOUT TO DONATE YOUR **TALENTS** TO A MOST WORTHY CAUSE... THE **ADVANCEMENT** OF MY CAREER!

BUT **HOW?**

ALTHOUGH THORN'S QUESTION REMAINED **UNANSWERED**, THE INQUIRIES OF JIM BUCK DID **NOT**. AS HE EXPECTED, DR. HARKNESS WAS MOST **COOPERATIVE**.

FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME, JIM, I'D SAY YOU ARE DEALING WITH A **CULT OF THE DEAD**!

JUST WHAT IS THAT, DOCTOR?

PSEUDO-RELIGIOUS COVENS THAT SOMETIMES EAT THE FLESH OF THE **DEAD** TO TRANSFER THE SOUL TO THE **LIVING**.

DISCOVERY OF THE MONTE CICERO TEMPLE GAVE THEM A FEELING OF TRADITION... ALMOST RESPECTABILITY BY THE LATE 30'S THEY HAD BECOME MORE ACTIVE... AND NOTORIOUS.

Louis Clancy
ARCHAEOLOGY DEPT.

I KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THEM, BUT I HAVE A **COLLEAGUE** WHO COULD TELL YOU MUCH MORE... **LOUIS CLANCY**.

HIS **FATHER** WAS ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MONTE CICERO EXPEDITION!

MEANWHILE, LT. IAN HENRY WAS COVERING THE **GAMUT** OF VERBAL OBSCENITIES, AND MENTALLY COMPOSING HIS **RESIGNATION** AS HE HAD SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST.

DAMN! OUR INFORMERS ARE ACTING LIKE A BUNCH OF **DEAF MUTES**. AND NOW... ANOTHER **MURDER!**



THEY JUST FOUND AN ACTOR NAMED **ROBERT THORN** IN AN ALLEYWAY! HEAD **PUSHED IN**, BRAIN **PULLED OUT**... JUST LIKE THE OTHER ONE!

SOMEBODY GET **JIM BUCK** ON THE RADIO AND TELL HIM TO GET HIS RUMP BACK HERE **IMMEDIATELY!**



A SHORT TIME LATER...

WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING? A FEEBLE IMPRESSION OF THE **CHESSIRE CAT**? WHAT THE HELL IS THERE TO **SMILE** ABOUT?

I THINK I'VE GOT A **LEAD** ON THE **RITUAL KILLING!**



YOU STILL HOLD TO THAT **RITUAL THEORY**?



MORE THAN EVER. I'VE BEEN TALKING TO A PROFESSOR OF **ARCHAEOLOGY** AT **NORTH WESTERN**. PART OF HIS LECTURES DEAL WITH **CULTS OF THE DEAD**... AND THEIR METHODS OF OPERATION SOUND ANFULLY **CLOSE** TO WHAT WE HAVE AT HAND.



IF THIS DOCTOR KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT THEM, DO YOU THINK HE MAY BE **INVOLVED**?



NOT **DIRECTLY**. BUT PERHAPS **EMOTIONALLY** DISTURBED **STUDENTS** TOOK HIS TEACHINGS TO HEART...

I WANT TO CHECK THE **SCHOOL RECORDS** OF **EVERYONE** IN HIS CLASSES!

THE FOLLOWING DAY BROUGHT ONLY PROBLEMS FOR JIM BUCK, SICKERING WITH RELUCTANT SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, IGNORING CYNICAL CRIES OF 'FIS' FROM HOSTILE STUDENTS, LEAFING THROUGH THOUSANDS OF FILES FOR HE-WASNT-SURE-WHAT.

BUT ERROL GARVIN HAD MORE PROBLEMS.

THE SPEECH HE WAS TO READ BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL TOMORROW MORNING WASN'T FINISHED YET, AND THOUGH HE DON'T KNOW IT...

...THREE MEN WERE DETERMINED IT NEVER WOULD BE.



HURRY, ZORIAN! THIS ONE IS YOURS...



MEANWHILE...

FIND ANYTHING USEFUL, JIM?

I'M NOT SURE, LIEUTENANT BUT AN IDEA JUST OCCURRED TO ME. I THINK OF THE VICTIMS SO FAR.

I SHOULD THINK THE MURDERER WOULD SELECT A VICTIM RENOWNED IN A PARTICULAR FIELD... WHICHEVER THE KILLER WAS ASPIRING TO; THUS THE TALENTS HE COVETS WOULD BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DEAD MAN TO HIM!

I'VE MADE A LIST OF ALL THE ART AND THEATRE MAJORS WHO TAKE CLANCY'S CLASS. FOR NOW, THEY ARE MY PRIME SUSPECTS.



FINDING THE DESIRED FILES WAS RELATIVELY EASY; SECURING PERMISSION TO REMOVE THEM FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS WAS NOT. BUT FINALLY...

WE'RE CLEAR. BEFORE WE GO, I HAVE A FEW MORE QUESTIONS TO LIKE TO ASK DR. CLANCY ABOUT THOSE CULTS.

IT SEEMS HE STEPPED OUT...

DOESN'T MATTER. HE REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO A TEXTBOOK HIS FATHER HAD WRITTEN ABOUT THE EXPEDITION.

I'M SURE CLANCY WON'T MIND IF I BROWSE THROUGH IT.

IT MAY BE COINCIDENCE, BUT I'M NOT SATISFIED WITH THE GODS. LET'S GET CLANCY'S HOME ADDRESS... THIS BEARS LOOKING INTO!

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGIST, CLANCY HAS A RATHER PECULIAR LIBRARY. LOOK AT THIS... MEIN KAMPF... FRANKENSTEIN... MAN AND SUPERMAN... NIETZHE...! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

ELSEWHERE, DR. LOUIS CLANCY WAS HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESSION OF EVENTS.

SO IT IS DONE! NOW YOU SHALL ALL SEE YOUR WISHES FULFILLED!

YOU, CHARLES, WANTED TO BE AN ACTOR. HOW CAN YOU GO WRONG WITH THE TALENTS OF ROBERT THORN WITHIN YOU?

AND MICHAEL... WITH THE SKILL OF GREYSTONE, YOU SHALL BECOME A GREAT PANTER...

...AND JOHN HERE, A FINE POLITICIAN.



AAARRGGGHHH!

OF COURSE, ALL THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR SURVIVAL, WHICH, I'M AFRAID, IS DOUBTFUL!

ALL MY LIFE I HAVE BEEN FASCINATED WITH THE CONCEPT OF A SUPERHERO. MEN HAVE TRIED AND FAILED. BUT WITH MY FATHER'S TEACHINGS TO GUIDE ME, I SHALL NOT!

NOW I SHALL HAVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE, YOUR SKILLS, COMBINED WITH THOSE OF THE MEN YOU KILLED. AND THERE SHALL BE OTHERS!

GRADUALLY, I SHALL BECOME THAT SUPERMAN, BY ASSUMING THE TALENTS OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST MINDS. I SHALL ASSIMILATE THEIR SKILLS!

SUDDENLY...

FREEZE, CLANCY...

NO! NOT NOW! YOU MUSTN'T STOP ME NOW, AT THE GREATEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE!

RAAIIIE!

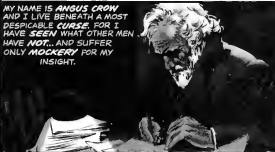
IT WAS OVER. THE SEARCHING, THE DIGGING, THE ANTICIPATION, THE DISAPPOINTMENTS. BUT THERE WAS NO THRILL OF DISCOVERY. NOT THIS TIME.

PROLOGUE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. **PLEASE...** DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE THE **OTHERS** HAVE MADE. DO NOT DISMISS ME AS A **MADMAN** OR SENILE OLD **FOOL**. I AM **NEITHER**.



MY NAME IS **ANGUS CROW** AND I LIVE BENEATH A MOST DESPICABLE **CURSE**. FOR I HAVE **SEEN** WHAT OTHER MEN HAVE **NOT...** AND SUFFER ONLY **MOCKERY** FOR MY INSIGHT.



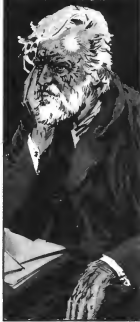
THEY WALK IN OUR MIDST. THEIR **PURPOSE** REMAINS A **MYSTERY**. BUT OF THEIR **PRESENCE**, I HAVE NO QUESTION. WHY DOES NO ONE **BELIEVE** ME?



I WRITE THIS FINAL TESTAMENT BECAUSE I AM **OLD** AND HAVEN'T MUCH **TIME**. NEITHER HAS OUR **WORLD**. THUS, IT IS IMPERATIVE I COMMUNICATE TO **SOMEONE** THE DANGER **CONFRONTING** US.



BUT BEFORE I IMPART MY FINDINGS, I MUST PROVE MY **QUALIFICATIONS**... TO CONVINCE YOU THAT I AM **NOT** WHAT THEY SAY I AM.



HERE THEN IS THE **FULL STORY**. JUDGE FOR YOURSELF...



...AND DO SO WITHOUT **PREJUDICE** OR **INDIFFERENCE**, FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF **ERRORS** MIGHT PROVE DISASTROUS TO US **ALL**.

The Last Testament of Angus Crow!

I WAS BORN 84 YEARS AGO, THE SON OF A PROMINENT **NUCLEAR-PHYSICIST**. FROM EARLIEST CHILDHOOD, I WAS TAUGHT TO **RESPECT** THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD AND THE VALUE OF **EMPIRICAL DATA**.

HENCE, I DEVELOPED INTO A SOMEWHAT **PRECOCIOUS CHILD**.





I HAD A **LONELY** CHILDHOOD, WITH FEW **FRIENDS**. PEOPLE TEND TO BE **EMOTIONAL**, IRRATIONAL, AND **RESISTANT** TO SCIENTIFIC **CLASSIFICATION**. THUS, THEY **FRUSTRATED** AND EVENTUALLY **BORED** ME.

INSTEAD, I SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS READING ADVANCED **TEXTS**, AND AT AN EARLY AGE, WAS **PROFICIENT** IN CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS, AND **BIOLOGY**.



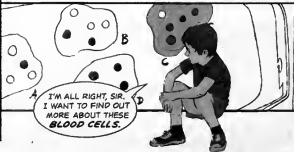
MY LEISURE HOURS WERE SPENT IN SCANNING THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC **JOURNALS** AND **MAGAZINES** AND SPECULATING UPON THEIR **CONTENTS**.

LIFE WAS A DAILY ROUTINE OF EATING, STUDYING, AND SLEEPING FROM WHICH I SELDOM **VARIED**.



MY FATHER PROVIDED THE BEST **TUTORS** IN EVERY FIELD TO SUPERVISE MY **EDUCATION**, AND I SPENT MOST OF MY TIME IN THEIR **COMPANY**.

I THINK PERHAPS YOU NEED A **REST**, ANGUS. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING VERY **HARD** LATELY...!



I'M ALL RIGHT, SIR. I WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE **BLOOD CELLS**.

ACCORDING TO MY FATHER'S **WISHES**, I ADHERED TO A RIGID PROGRAM OF **SELF-DISCIPLINE**. IN THAT TIME, I KNEW NO HUMAN CONTACT SAVE MY **FATHER AND MY TEACHERS**. BUT THERE WAS ONE WHOM I OFTEN **THOUGHT** ABOUT!



BUT I WOULD OFTEN LAY **AWAKE** AT NIGHT AND **THINK** ABOUT HER.

AT THAT TIME, I WAS STILL **UNAWARE** OF THE **ALIENS**. MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THEM CAME AT **SPECTRUM COLLEGE** SEVERAL YEARS LATER.

IT WAS THE FIRST MOMENT I BEGAN TO DOUBT MY **SANITY**.



THEY WERE DISGUISED AS **TWO STUDENTS**. THEY **SEEMED** ORDINARY, BUT I HEARD THEM COMMUNICATING **TELEPATHICALLY**...

THE GARBLED CHATTERING NEARLY DROVE ME MAD, AND I WONDERED WHY THE OTHERS COULDN'T **HEAR** IT.

AND WHEN I **TOLD** THEM WHAT I'D HEARD, THEY **LAUGHED**.

BUT I KNEW THAT I WAS NOT **HALLUCINATING**. THERE WERE **BEINGS** FROM AN ALIEN PLANET WALKING AMONG US.

AND I WAS **CURSED** TO BE THE ONLY MAN ALIVE WHO **KNEW**.

IN THE ENSUING YEARS, I TRIED TO **FORGET**...TO RESUME NORMAL **ACTIVITY**. BUT IT WAS **IMPOSSIBLE**. EVERYWHERE I WENT, THERE WERE OTHER VOICES, OTHER **ALIENS**.



IN THE **ARMY**, IN THE **GOVERNMENT LABORATORY** WHERE I WORKED... **THEY** WERE THERE TOO. INFILTRATING EVEN THE HIGH LEVELS OF **GOVERNMENT**, DISGUISED AS... **NUMANS**.



AT FIRST I RESOLVED TO KEEP **QUIET** ABOUT WHAT I KNEW. I COULDN'T BEAR THE **MOCKING LAUGHTER** AGAIN.



BUT GRADUALLY THE **STRAIN** BECAME TOO GREAT. MY SUPERVISORS SAID I NEEDED A REST. THEY SUGGESTED I VISIT THE RESIDENT **PSYCHIATRIST**.

ON THE SLIM CHANCE THAT **HE** WOULD BELIEVE ME, I TOLD HIM THE WHOLE **STORY**.



"THESE **DELUSIONS** ARE THE PRODUCT OF **REPRESSION**" HE TOLD ME. "DURING YOUR MILITARY CAREER, YOU SAW MANY THINGS THAT YOUR MIND WAS NOT **STRONG** ENOUGH TO **ACCEPT**!"



THAT MUCH WAS TRUE,
WHOSE MIND COULD
WILLINGLY ACCEPT THE
MEMORY OF **TORTURE**
AT THE HANDS OF THE
ENEMY?



COUNTLESS **FRIENDS KILLED** IN THE PRISON CAMP?



WOMEN **RAPED** BY ENEMY LEADERS, SOME OF WHOM I KNEW TO
BE **ALIENS**?



AND THE RITUALISTIC **EXECUTION**
THAT FOLLOWED, WHEN THE WOMEN'S
PURPOSE WAS **FULFILLED**?



I TOLD HIM OF THE
NIGHTMARES THAT
I ENDURED DURING
THOSE PRISON CAMP
YEARS. NIGHTMARES
IN WHICH THE **ALIENS**
REVEALED THEIR
TRUE FORMS. I SAW
THEM AS **CARICA-
TURES** OF THE
FILM MONSTERS
I HAD SEEN DURING
MY TROUBLED
TEENAGE YEARS.



HE ASKED ME IF I HAD EVER BEEN IN **LOVE**. I TOLD HIM **YES**. THERE WAS A WOMAN I SAW IN A **MAGAZINE** ONCE.



SHE LOOKED THE WAY I ALWAYS IMAGINED MY **MOTHER** MUST HAVE LOOKED. WHEN I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT THE **CREATURES** I WAS THINKING ABOUT **HER...**!



THINKING HOW WARM AND SENSUOUS HER **KISSES** WOULD TASTE.



THINKING OF HOW SHE WOULD **REASSURE** ME, AND **HOLD** ME WHEN I NEEDED **HOLDING**.



THE DOCTOR SMILED KNOWINGLY WHEN I TOLD HIM THESE THINGS. WE MET FOR SEVERAL **SESSIONS** AFTER THAT, BUT WITH EACH ONE, HE GREW MORE IRRITABLE AS I **PERSISTED** IN MY BELIEF THAT OUR WORLD WAS UNDER **OBSERVATION!**

FINALLY, I WAS LABELLED INCURABLE AND DANGEROUSLY **PARANOID**, AND WAS **INSTITUTIONALIZED** AT THE STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.



AND STILL NO ONE BELIEVED THAT THE THREAT **EXISTED**.

THE **CRIMINALLY** INSANE? WHY WAS I **THERE?** I HAD COMMITTED NO CRIME. I THEN REALIZED THAT THE ALIENS HAD THE FORMS OF **DOCTORS** AS WELL. MY DOCTOR HAD BEEN ONE OF THEM.

THEY KNEW THAT I HAD PENETRATED THEIR VEIL OF **SECRECY**, AND THEY HAVE FIXED IT SO NO ONE WILL EVER BELIEVE IN THE **THREAT**. NO ONE WILL EVER BELIEVE **ME**. FOR I AM **MAD**.

AND STILL, **THEY** WALK AMONG AN UNSUSPECTING POPULATION... OBSERVING, LEARNING, AWAITING THE OPPORTUNITY TO **USE** THAT KNOWLEDGE **AGAINST US**.

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT. I HAVE BEEN IN THIS ASYLUM NEARLY **FIFTY YEARS**, BUT I KNOW THEY HAVE NOT **FORGOTTEN** ME. THEY WILL **COME... SOON...**!


HERE IS THE **LAB REPORT DOCTOR...**

YOU HAVE SEEN THAT I AM A MAN OF **SCIENCE**, NOT AN EMOTIONAL **IDIOT**. DON'T LET THE DOUBLE-TALK OF THE **PSYCHIATRISTS** DISSUADE YOU.

IT'S HOPELESS. THERE IS NO KNOWN **CURE...**

JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES... AND BEWARE... BE--!

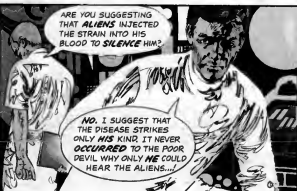
HE IS DEAD



YOU'VE STUDIED
THE OLD MAN'S CASE,
DR. HALL. WHAT'S YOUR
DIAGNOSIS?
WAS HE **MAD?**

OF COURSE, HE
WAS SUFFERING
FROM **PARANOID**
DELUSIONS!

THEN HOW DO YOU
EXPLAIN THE **BLOOD**
SAMPLE? THE DISEASE
THAT **KILLED** ANGUS
CROW WAS NOTHING
SEEN ON THIS
EARTH!



ARE YOU SUGGESTING
THAT **ALIENS** INJECTED
THE STRAIN INTO HIS
BLOOD TO **SILENCE** HIM?

NO. I SUGGEST THAT
THE DISEASE STRIKES
ONLY **HIS** KIND, IT NEVER
OCCURRED TO THE POOR
DEVIL WHY ONLY **HE** COULD
HEAR THE **ALIENS**...

YOU MEAN THAT
CROW **HIMSELF**
WAS AN **ALIEN?**

A **HALF-BREED**, MOST
LIKELY, AS HE SAID, HE
NEVER **KNEW** HIS MOTHER...

BUT IT MAKES ME
WONDER... HOW
MANY MORE LIKE
HIM **ARE** THERE
WALKING AROUND
OUT THERE?

CREEPY & EERIE RINGS



QUALITY JEWELRY COLLECTOR'S ITEM! FITS ANY FINGER

You asked for it, and here they are! These magnificently burnished Gold Finish Rings cover HALF your finger! They are specially made for us by a quality jewelry manufacturer & are adjustable to fit any finger. Guaranteed to become Collector's Items! The faces of CREEPY & EERIE are over 1 1/2" long, magnificently sculptured in fine detail. Each is proud to wear these carefully-looking fine rings for any occasion. Refer to the coupon last page of this magazine to order. #2600 CREEPY RING \$1.25, and #2611 COUSIN EERIE RING \$1.25.

PATCHES

3-INCH CREEPY AND EERIE EMBLEMS IN COLOR!



Too hot to wear Uncle Creepy and charming Cousin Eerie. Now you can wear your heart on your sleeve - in anywhere else you like matter. Get these bright multi-colored cloth patches, embroidered with the characters of two of your favorite people. Sew them on your jacket, pants, T-shirt, cap or apron. Patches are three inches tall. Eerie patch is aqua with green lace. Creepy patch, orange with yellow lace. Heavy duty. Machine washable. \$2.00. #2602 CREEPY PATCH \$1.00, #2612 EERIE PATCH \$1.00.

SAVE YOUR VAMPIRELLA



BACK ISSUES IN CUSTOM-DESIGNED LIBRARY CASES!

You must know how valuable Warren magazines are. You know how back issues increase in desirability and price as the supply of most copies dwindles. So, you serious collectors of our books must be pleased to know that we're bringing out a whole fantastic line of CUSTOM-DESIGNED LEATHERETTE FINISH LIBRARY CASES. Each one holds a one-year run of this, your favorite imaginative horror mag, and keeps that run in superb condition. And has our title in gold type right on the spine! Fantastic! Order today! (This VAMPIRE LIBRARY CASE features a Blood Red spine and black leatherette cover.) #203P VAMPIRE LIBRARY CASE \$4.95

VAMPIRELLA FAN CLUB



HERE IT IS! VAMPIRELLA FAN CLUB! Hey, all you red-blooded VAMPIRELLA readers! Take a look at the historic blood-curdling collection of goodies you get when you join Vampire's own ALL NEW FAN CLUB! A new, shapely Official Full Color CLUB BADGE (high-quality heavy metal), the Vampirella artist ARNOLD PLUS an Official letter size MEMBERSHIP CARD (individually & personally numbered) signed by her Vampire ladyship, VAMPIRELLA herself! Once you reserve these collector's items, you'll be proud & pleased to show your friends. Impress everyone you know. Join VAMPIRELLA's FAN CLUB NOW! Only \$2.00.



VAMPIRELLA PLASTIC HOBBY KIT

16 SNAP-TOGETHER PLASTIC PARTS! MOVEABLE ARMS & LEGS!

Here she is! Brought sweeping out of the night, flying directly at your neck irresistibly by Warren Publishing! Surely the collector's item of the decade! Our own VAMPIRELLA, star of her own magazine, debateable of Dracula, vamp of the veins and erasure of the arteries! In a limited supply collector's plastic hobby kit that's becoming more rare by the hour! And the hour is bewitching, as vicious VAMPIRELLA stands assembled before you on your hobby shelf! She has this special added attraction: movable arms and legs, and a pet black bat to perch on her shoulder! She's a pert, pretty miss, and stands over 5" tall! She's definitely a unique buy, and a certain contrast to your other hobby kits. VAMPIRELLA! Princess of Dracula! VAMPIRELLA! - She hobbos with Dracula Himself! VAMPIRELLA! - She travels the world with Dr. von Heering in search of justice for herself, and all others WHO CRAVE TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD! Yes, she's all that and MORE! She's now a super collector's item. *being sold by mail order only.* **POPULAR DEMAND!** Don't hesitate! The supply is definitely limited! Order as many VAMPIRELLA kits as you can. NOW! #2439 VAMPIRELLA KIT \$2.00



SHE'S FANG-TASTIC!

"No red-blooded fan can do without this poster"
-Forrest J Ackerman
"An absolute delight! I love her!"
-Isaac Asimov
"Exciting pictures superbly presented & wonderfully captioned"
-Phil Seuling

HEIDI POSTER HEIDI BOOK



34" by 24" (3 feet) by two feet tall & white poster of Phantoms' Psychodemonic Princess, HEIDI SANA! Now you can put her in the wall, in one of her pose-winning costumes as... *being sold by mail order only.* **POPULAR DEMAND!** Don't hesitate! The supply is definitely limited! Order as many HEIDI POSTER \$1.50

HEIDI SANA is so well-known and adored in Fantasy Fandom circles that we decided to put a book on her and some of her most famous legends... like Arthur C. Clarke, Phil Seuling, Jim Warren, and Star Trek's creator, Gene Roddenberry, to name a few in this lavishly-printed 36-page slick paper pamphlet book. It's also very pretty and informative data on this very pretty girl, and pictures galore (particularly of all of her pose-winning stunning costumes as Comic Art, Monster & Sci-Fi Fan Gameplay) will attract the eye of every girl! **POPULAR DEMAND!** Don't hesitate! The supply is definitely limited! Order as many HEIDI BOOK \$2.00

Pirates of the Caribbean

HOBBY KITS

© Walt Disney Productions

HORRIFIC UNDEAD SKELETONS MOVE WITH ZAP ACTION



FATE OF THE MUTINEERS!
—is quicksand! And a most terrifying fate it is, too! One living pirate skeleton is sinking deeper and deeper into the mire! Can his mate save him? Well, the free walking-skeleton tries, and that's where the ZAP-ACTION horror comes in, as before your startled friends' eyes, the free one yanks his friend's arm loose in SKEET! #2454 FATE OF THE MUTINEERS \$2.00



On the DEAD MAN'S RIFT, one chilling cage of calcium steers the cursed raft down the River Styx to the Land of the Dead! It looks like clear sailing all the way, until from out of the coffin pops up a second skeleton, moving with ZAP-ACTION! The second skeleton SLAMS his dagger into a treasure map! A cursed sign from the Great Beyond to resume the lost quest for blood-thirsted Oskelton! This realistic, moving horror kit puts you in the Right! Theme! Order #2452 DEAD MAN'S RIFT \$3.00



CONDEMNED TO CHIRNS FOREVER is the eternal curse laid upon this marooned bag of bones, left bobbing on a small ice cube but a barrel of rum and his fair share of some ill-gotten treasure. An ironic punishment! And what's worse, all he has is a colless to lend off that hungry alligator who's dead-set on using the pirate skeleton's leg bone for a tooth-pick! So he SWINGS his cutters down eternally on the galley's snout! #2453 CONDEMNED TO CHIRNS FOREVER \$2.00



"HOIST HIGH THE JOLLY ROGER!"—shoots zombie-like CAPTAIN VILLAIN! himself! With one hand he holds aloft his Jolly Roger pirate emblem flag, the dread skull & crossbones, as with his other arm, he waves his danking cutlass in ZAP-ACTION, daring old Ned even that malicious & salty skeleton crew will get HIS share of the treasure, you'd better believe! Captain Villain, you see, heads the whole operation, and orders about his ghastly crew! Order #2451 HOIST HIGH THE JOLLY ROGER! \$1.50



"DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES!"—The Great Mollo of the bloodthirsty Pirates of the Caribbean in the Salty Sixteenth Century, when the secret burial place of treasure in boxes was protected by killing all but one of the men who buried it! Namely the man who did the killing of his mate! One such honey fiend here spends forever and a day re-enacting that evil moment in his life when he murdered his pirate pals, cackling off the name of this great ZAP-ACTION kit. Order #2450 DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES \$1.50

HAUNTED MANSION HOBBY KITS

GRUESOME GRAVE GHOULS MOVE WITH ZAP ACTION



THE VAMPIRE'S MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Here's a monstrous question: What would a haunted house be without a blood-thirsty vampire? But what sort of vampire is this who shrieks at the night of a skull? And when he does, ZAP ACTION strikes! His grimy, by up and leech the gargoyle head from the tombstone. And behold where the monstrous head roared is a "Woe a Woe" chilling face. You'll have hours of fun assembling, painting, and scoring your friends with this new and exciting horror hobby kit. #2468 \$2.00



GRAVE ROBBER'S REWARD

Through the cemetery gates he creeps. To do his dirty work a newly buried coffin his eyes fixed, and nervously, he begins to dig. But our happy grave-robber digs, and here's a happy-go-lucky fellow who is unaware that danger lurks near. From the grave comes ZAP ACTION as the dead man protects the treasure hidden in his final resting place. Order #2459 \$3.00



ESCAPE FROM THE CRYPT

Climb from the hall of the great castle into the catacombs below. Double-horror action heightens this great kit! As the hapless henchman tries to aid a groans burdened by a ball and chain, ZAP ACTION strikes! As the ghastly counts down on the metal links, a gruesome skeleton hits the lid of his coffin and tries to watch the strange goings-on. The playing with this kit is only half the fun! You'll spend hours of model-making pleasure, assembling, then, these, the ones that come with this kit. Not to mention the prizes that go with it. As an after, a rickety helmet, an axe, a pick, and the gall-horn. And you can paint your Crypt model all the gruesome colors of the macabre. Specially #2490 \$4.00



PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM

More double zap action with this exciting kit. Following in the footsteps of Eric, the Phantom of the Opera, this macabre musician plays his gruesome tune for your ears alone. And as a guitar player plays his song, ZAP ACTION strikes! Down come the player's hands. And when they do, ZAP ACTION strikes again! For from within the organ pipes or aged-old mummies. All of this zap action has humpkins under the watchful eyes of long-dead bones, mounded in the pipes of the organ. This exciting kit comes complete with two figures, a hand crank, and a set of organ pipes. And the pipes (with heads attached). So fill your life with music...the kind of music that only musicians and organists love! Play it Again, Sam. Order #2489 \$4.00.

DINOSAUR SCENES HOBBY KITS

ALL-PLASTIC MONSTERS TO BUILD AND DISPLAY



DIMETRODON

NEW! 10" long replica of the leaved lizard. With the longhorn head is a prehistoric discrepancy. One of the earliest dinosaurs. It's his an incredible weather vane! #24105/\$3.20



TYRANNOSAURUS REX

NEW! The King of the Dinosaurs, the most powerful creature ever to roam the earth. This kit, when fully assembled, stands nearly 3 feet tall! An amazing plastic kit. #24106/\$12.95



ANKYLOSAURUS

NEW! An indestructible dinosaur, due to his mac-like tail and spiked armor shell. A vegetarian, but an incredibly strong animal. One of the last of the dinosaurs. #24104/\$2.75

PLUS THESE 14 EXCITING FAVORITES!



GIANT BIRD: Called Phororhacos, this is a large meat-eating bird. Could not fly, but was an enormous 6' tall, big as a large 6' and features all details, such as 6-toes and the devastating jaw. #2434/\$3.00



SPIKED DINOSAUR: The Spyracanthus, cousin to the Triceratops. Multispined shield on head and horns on back kept the meat-eaters at a peak distance. All in over a foot long, pit him against Rex! #2437/\$3.50



SABER-TOOTH TIGER: He is over 8" long, and features the most vicious mammal gear to walk the earth. One creature more the monster's breakfast! Pit him against the Mammoth, his blood enemy! #2429/\$3.00



GIANT WOOLLY MAMMOTH: The best-known of the prehistoric monsters. He is over 14" long, and features the long-tailed head, all of his glory. Mammoth was plant-eater, although strong. #2438/\$6.50



TAR PIT SCENE: Here is a perfect setting for your Mammoth, Tiger, and other Mammals. All comes complete with settings, trees, bunnies, Rhinos, and prehistoric vultures. Scene of death and devastation. #2417/\$3.50



CRO-MAGNON WOMAN: A perfect and interesting companion for the Cro-Magnon man. She, too, is over 4" tall, and is posed so as to be equipped all monsters that her in cave, landing home, while hubby hunts. #2422/\$2.00



PREHISTORIC CAVE: Built to scale so that your Cro-Magnon can be placed inside. Here you people from the dangerous dinosaurs that lurk without! Detailed interior of cave to keep cavemen busy. #2418/\$3.50

BUILD AN ENTIRE PREHISTORIC WORLD

Here is an incredible world of monsters against men. Create an entire diorama of prehistoric life with these exciting prehistoric kits. Featured are all of the best-known dinosaurs and early mammals. A challenging set of hobby kits; a must for all fans of early life on our world.

Build 'em & display!



JUNGLE SWAMP: Over 60 parts in this recreation of an open old prehistoric marshland. Includes flying reptiles, cave-bears, prehistoric birds, pool, trees, and dinosaurs plants. Over a large 12" long. #2435/\$3.50



CRO-MAGNON MAN: Here he is, in all of his ruggedness. He is 4" tall, and can be put in battle against the tiger, or any of the other prehistoric dangers. Perfectly proportioned for cave. #2423/\$2.00



GIANT ALLOSAURUS: This kit is over 10" high, and starts the deadly crown of the Tyrannosaurus. Cro-Allo was 20" tall, and lived in what is now the United States. Have him fight the Triceratops. #2415/\$3.50



FLYING REPTILE: The Pteranodon, the first of the winged reptiles. All features bird with 18 1/2" wing span. Creature would pluck fish from the sea to eat. Had paper eye light, but flew by sense like bat. #2424/\$3.00



NEANDERTHAL MAN: This is one of the first cave-men. Lived in what is now France, and could live in temperatures of extreme cold. He is 4 1/2" high, with detailed human features. Put him in cave! #2421/\$2.00



CAVE BEAR: A big 6" tall kit, and a most powerful beast of the Pleistocene period. He with extremely vegetation. This animal was an amazing 1 1/2 taller than any bear of today. Worshipped by cults. #2433/\$3.00



THREE-HORNED DINOSAUR: This model kit is over 12" long, and features the Triceratops, a monster that grew to over 20' long. Two deadly horns on head were used to combat predatory dinosaurs. #2436/\$5.50

FULL COLOR DINOSAUR JIGSAW PUZZLES

The Age of Reptiles lives again in these three panoramic, full color dinosaur puzzles. Each has a big 200 piece and is a large 20"x12" when fully assembled. Hours of fun; greet to mount and display!



TYLOSARUS vs. PTERANODON

The waves of a prehistoric ocean are choppy with death as these great lizards battle it out. Pteranodon was the first winged animal; Tylosarus was the ancient ancestor of our own modern-day Loch Ness Monster. The two were blood enemies as both fed upon fish from the sea. Magnificent kit! #2677/\$1.39

BRONTOSAUR

This is the big one! All 30 tons of the Brontosaurus are here in this exciting puzzle. The Brontosaurus had to spend most of his time in water for two reasons. It helped support his massive weight, and kept him safe from predators, meat-eating dinosaurs who couldn't swim. Bronto was strictly a vegetarian beast. #2678/\$1.39



TYRANNOSAUR vs. TRICERATOPS

The earth quakes as these two most famous dinosaurs battle it out to the death. The Tyrannosaurus, King of the Dinosaurs and mightiest of the meat-eaters, and Triceratops, a peaceful vegetarian, are a well-matched pair. The Triceratops holds with 6' length, his companion wing 3 sharp rony horns. #2679/\$1.39

YELLOW SUBMARINE AND PLASTIC BEATLES HOBBY KIT

A collector's item from the days of Beatle mania! Build your own Yellow Submarine from high quality yellow plastic and chrome plated parts. Kit comes complete with decals and painting instructions. Access doors open and rubber band motor propels sub forward through bathtub waters at periscope depth. Instructions and equipment to build Beatles display planter included. #2432/\$24.95

**BUILD IT!
DISPLAY IT!
WIND IT UP
AND FLOAT
IT IN YOUR
BATHTUB!**



LONE RANGER JIGSAW PUZZLES

The Lone Ranger and his faithful Indian companion Tonto ride again in a set of three exciting jigsaw puzzles. There are 200 big pieces in these full color kits, each one a different photograph of the Western hero in action.



LONE RANGER #1
#2674/\$1.39



LONE RANGER #2
#2675/\$1.39



LONE RANGER #3
#2676/\$1.39

MOVING MECHANICAL PREHISTORIC ANIMAL HOBBY KITS

**WIND-UP
MOTOR
INCLUDED
NO BATTERIES
NEEDED**

The mighty behemoth roars! And it is answered by a challenging bellow. Two mighty prehistoric beasts charge. There is a clash on the two meet, teeth to teeth, claw to claw. Is this a scene from the latest Herrhausen film? No! It is a battle of moving monsters created from heavy duty, quality plastic and brought to life by your skill. Eight terrific kits! Eight moving marvels! Each comes complete with all the parts and instructions for assembly. A wind-up motor is included. Simply construct the figure, attaching the motor to the arms and legs as outlined. Then wind the key. The motor does the rest. Your miniature monster lurches forward and stalks across the room. The motor emits a lifelike roar. Each is approximately 10" from nose to tail. Own a herd! Each \$3.50.



BRONTOSAURUS
#2442



IGUANADON
#2443



DIMETRODON
#2444



TYRANNOSAURUS
#2445



STEGOSAURUS
#2446



ANKYLOSARUS
#2447



STYRACOSAURUS
#2448



TRICERATOPS
#2449

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KEEP ON TRUCKIN' Two Color
34"x22" #2923 \$2.00

GIANT LIFE SIZE FRANKENSTEIN PIN-UP

DRAWN BY

Jack Davis



**6
FEET
TALL!**

A gigantic, unbelievable work drawing of the FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER OVER 6 FEET TALL, by America's greatest cartoonist artist Jack Davis. A masterpiece of reproduction that will strike anyone who sees it! Place your picture taken alongside your favorite photo, tape it to the inside of your bedroom or den door, put it between someone's bed sheets, or just pin it on the wall. A million dollars worth of value for a few pence.

6 FT FRANKENSTEIN
Black & White
#2509
\$1.50

A FULL 6 FEET - ONLY \$1.50

Movie greats! Superheroes! TV stars! Monsters! Comic covers! You name it and you can have it. Order your terrific posters now. A poster for every room. A size for every niche. Some are in high contrast black and white. Some are in full exciting color. Hang them in your bedroom, den or playroom. Turn your house into a gallery. Display pictures of your favorite stars, EC's, comic characters. Don't miss your chance. Order posters now.



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**BUY THESE
MAGNIFICENT
POSTERS
OR A
VULTURE
WILL TEAR
YOUR
HEART
OUT!**



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FRIGHT A grim, ghostly tale that will fill you with lingering fear and fright. You'll remember THE HOUSE OF USHER (his most famous tale) with fear when you're alone! #2306, FRIGHT, \$2.29



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- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
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Read by Martin Donagan. Tales of a vindictive cat's ghost, an adduced mummy, and a study in madness. #2318 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #1 | \$4.49 |
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And two others, read by Martin Donagan. The Oval Portrait and Mesmerism. 4 of the best! #2324 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #7 | \$4.49 |

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NEW! FROM HOLLYWOOD!
VINYL
MOVIE
MONSTER
MASKS!

They fit the whole head. Sturdy, flexible but unbreakable all-weather vinyl masks. Reasonably priced so you can buy 'em ALL! All great!



"THIN" FRANKENSTEIN! For the narrow-minded, this latex face Frank's a mask! "THIN" FRANKENSTEIN SR 95 #2555



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VERMILION SKULL! A fearful Vermillion Red! The hair-headed bit of Horror! #2557 VERMILION SKULL SR 95



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METALUNA ROROTI! A metal man, shoving all away. It could be YOU! #2559 METALUNA ROROTI SR 95



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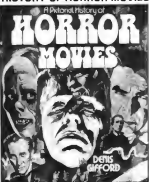
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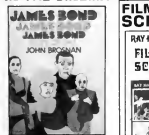
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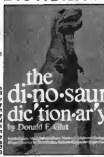
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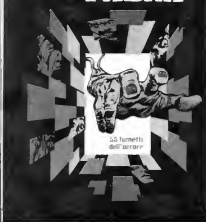
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HORROR REVIEW

IL PIACERE DELLA PAURA



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This high quality 220 page Italian book has something for everyone interested in the horror comic genre. It begins with seven full color pages of Windsor McCay's "Dreams of a Rarebit Fiend" (you can't find a much finer opener than that). It proceeds through early EC pages into the present with examples from adult underground European comics and the American comics underground with sample stories by Rich Corben and Greg Irons. Many American and European "above-ground" publishers are also represented, including five Warren Publishing black and white tales reproduced in full. Samples are included of European work by such foreign favorites as Esteban Maroto, Jose Bea and many whose work is less familiar to the majority of the American horror comics audience. The text in Italian doesn't present as much of a problem as you might have expected. The art tends to speak for itself. "Il Piacere della Paura" has the best in international horror comic art and authorship from McCay's "Dreams of a Rarebit Fiend" to Corben's "Cid & Opey!" Order this book now! #21170/\$13.95.

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